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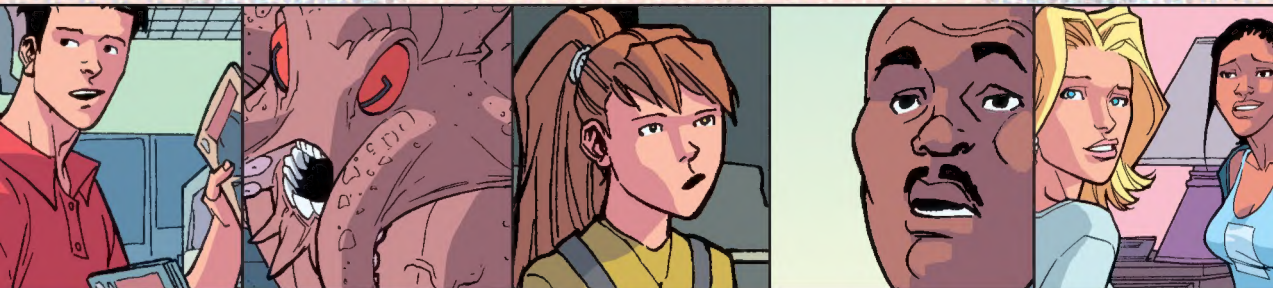


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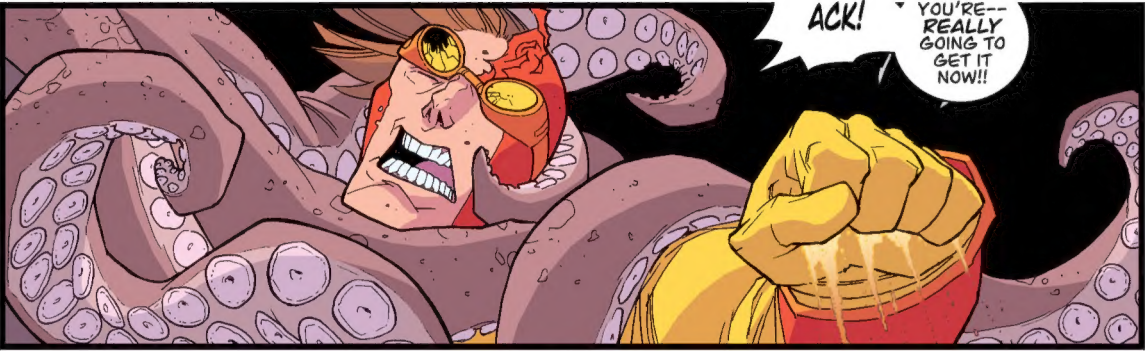
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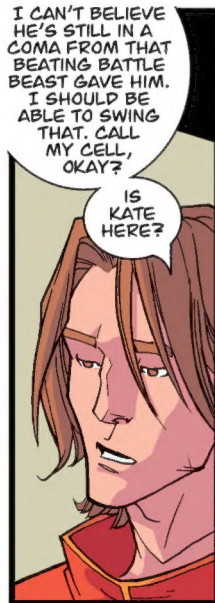
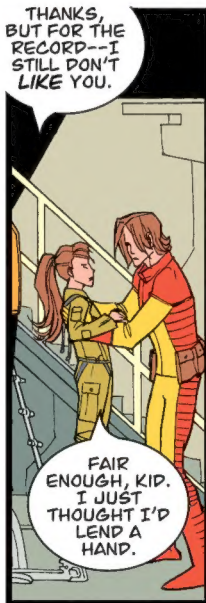
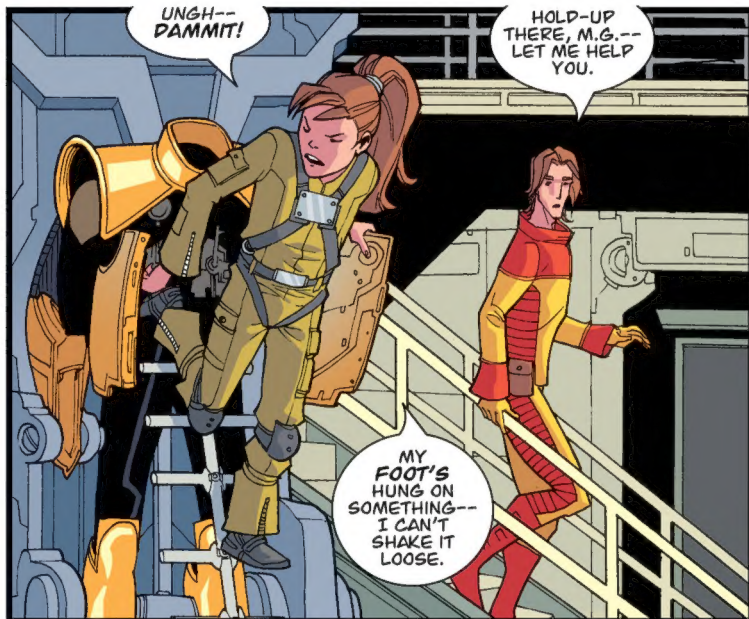
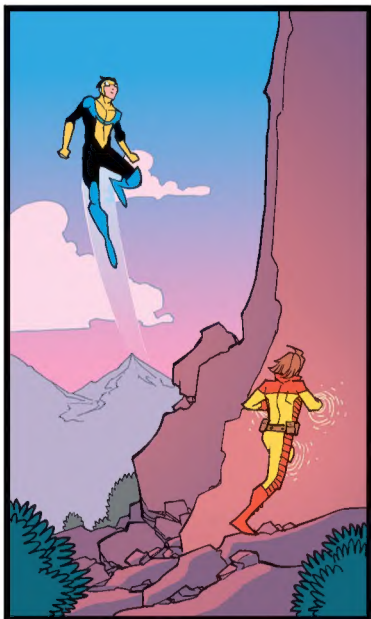


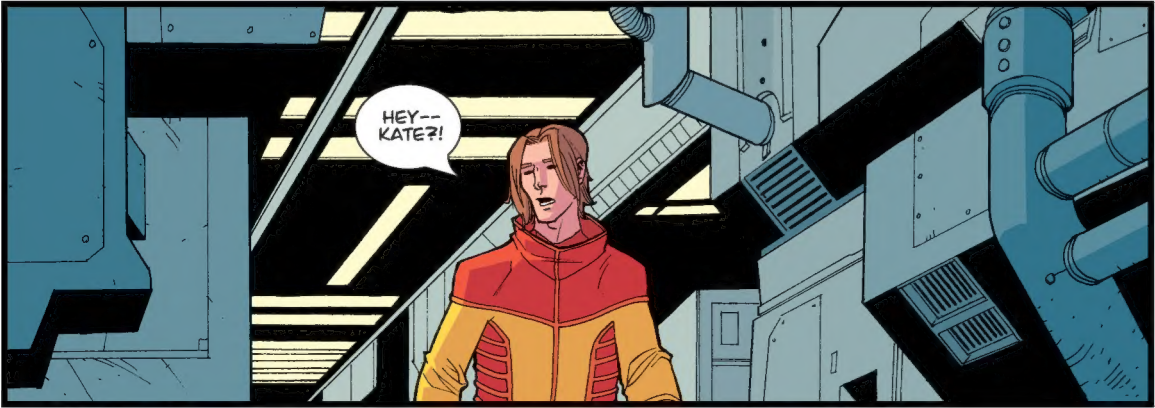


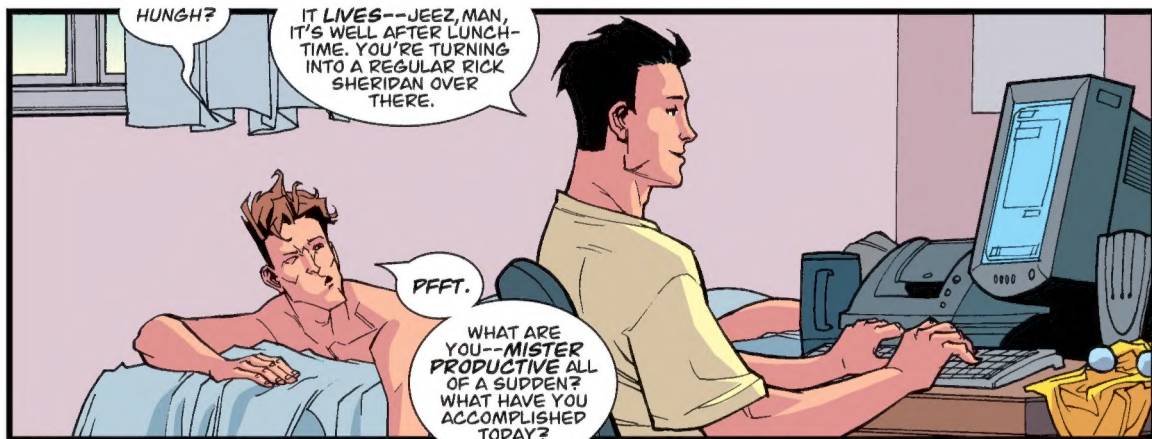


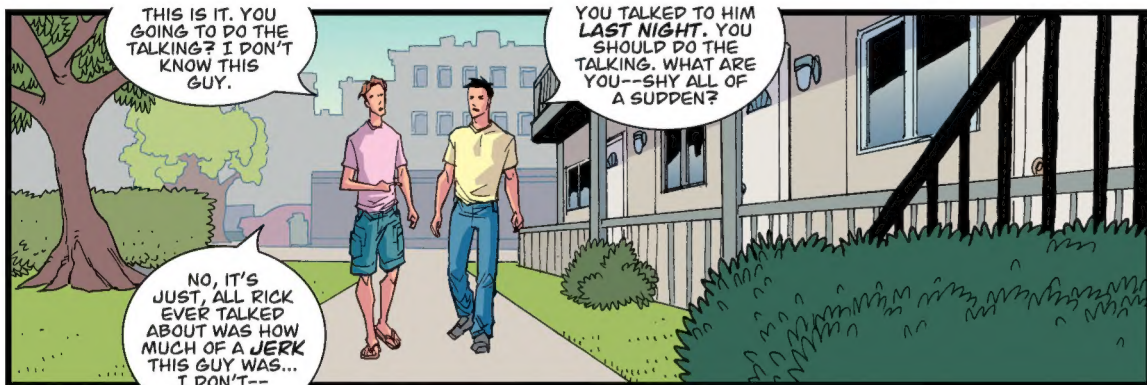


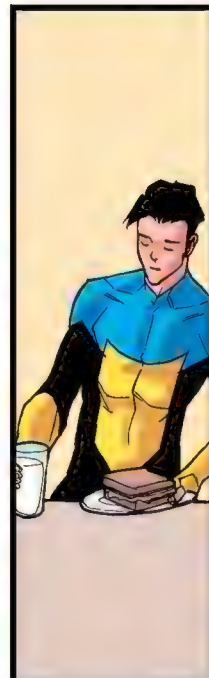
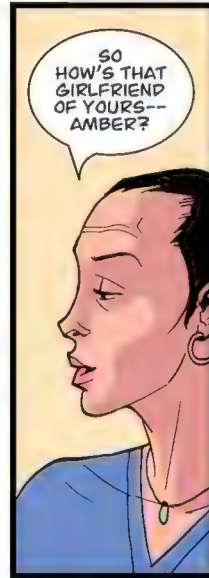










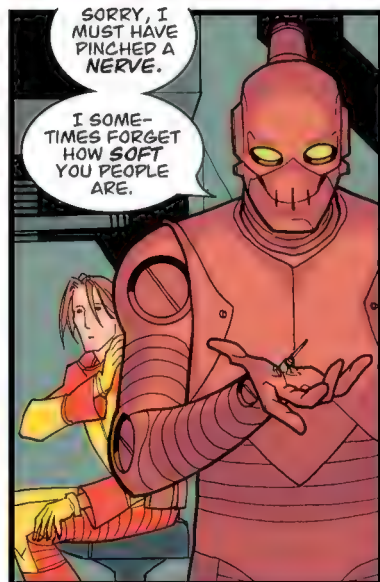
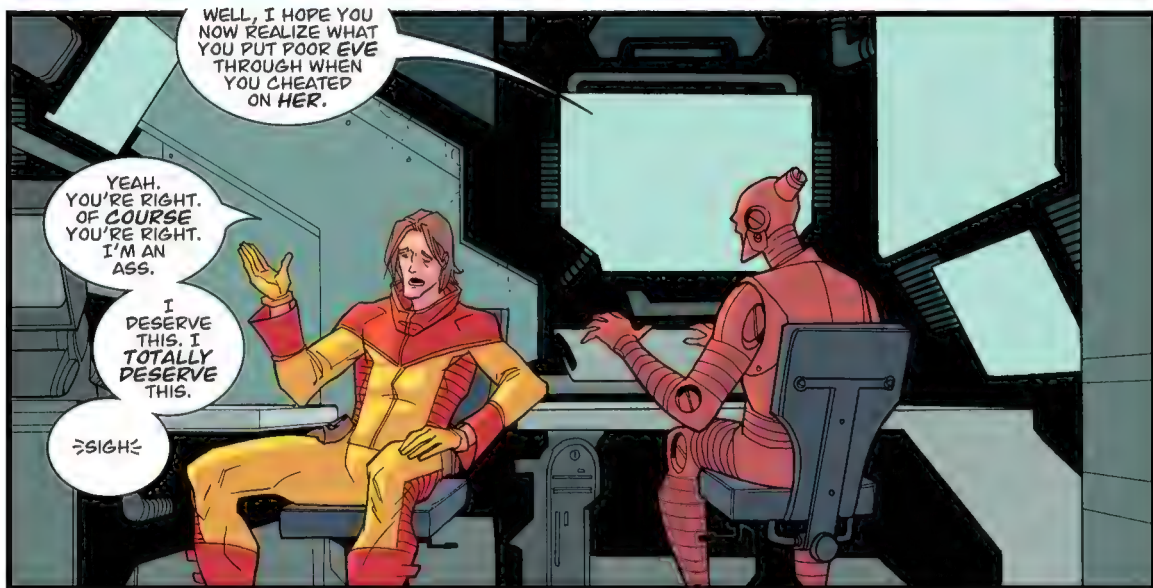




MARK!!

GET IN
HERE!!!





WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT,
MARK? HOW
CAN I NOT BE
REAL?

I'M
RIGHT
HERE.



I SEE YOU--
YOU'RE THERE--
BUT YOU'RE NOT
SCIENCE
DOG!!

SCIENCE
DOG IS A
COMIC BOOK
CHARACTER!



EXCUSE
ME? I
THINK I'D
KNOW...



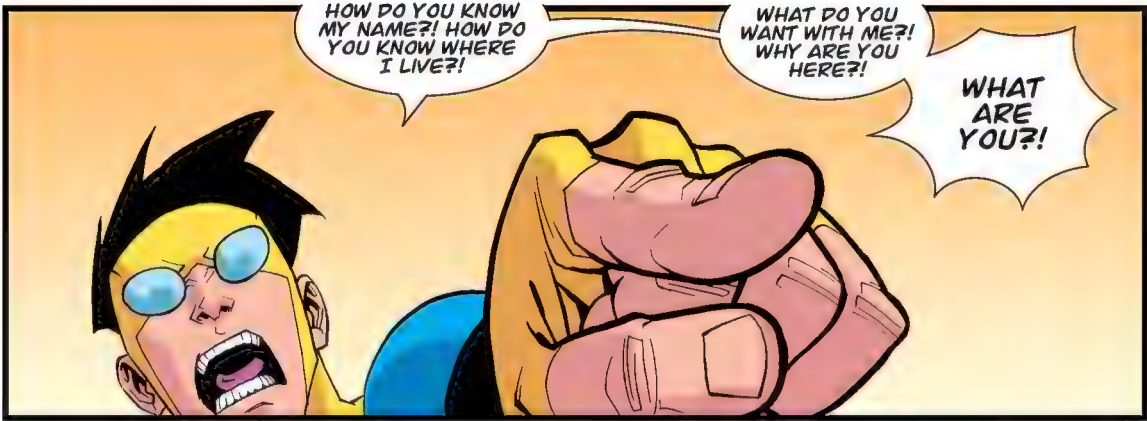
YOU
ARE NOT
REAL!



YOU DON'T
EXIST!!

POW!!!

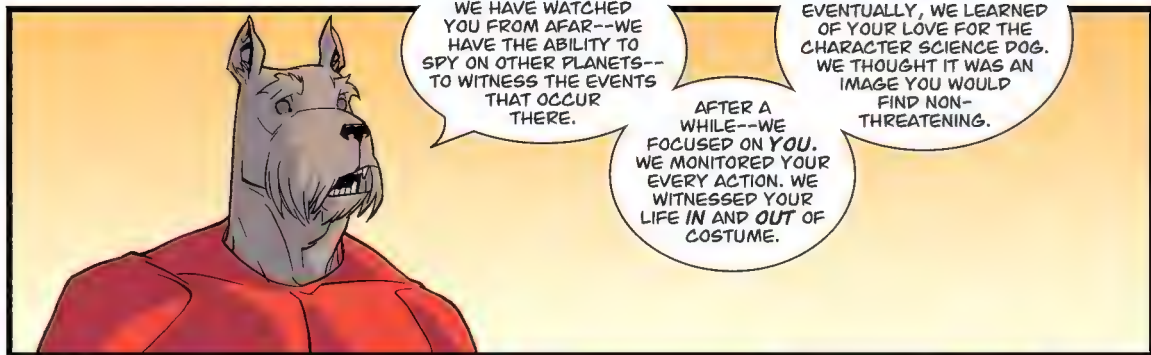






OKAY--IS THIS BETTER?

NOW--TALK TO ME. WHAT IS GOING ON?



WE HAVE WATCHED YOU FROM AFAR--WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO SPY ON OTHER PLANETS--TO WITNESS THE EVENTS THAT OCCUR THERE.

AFTER A WHILE--WE FOCUSED ON YOU. WE MONITORED YOUR EVERY ACTION. WE WITNESSED YOUR LIFE IN AND OUT OF COSTUME.

EVENTUALLY, WE LEARNED OF YOUR LOVE FOR THE CHARACTER SCIENCE DOG. WE THOUGHT IT WAS AN IMAGE YOU WOULD FIND NON-THREATENING.



NON-THREATENING?!

YOU'RE A SIX-FOOT TALKING CARTOON CHARACTER!!

WERE YOU EXPECTING A HUG?



WE ARE NOT FULLY AWARE OF YOUR CUSTOMS AND BEHAVIOR. WE WERE NOT SURE HOW YOU WOULD REACT.



FINE--WHAT-EVER. I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THAT PART BUT WHATEVER.

WHAT ABOUT SPYING ON ME? WHY WERE YOU DOING THAT? WHY DID YOU NEED TO CONTACT ME? WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?!



MY PEOPLE ARE IN GREAT DANGER. OUR PLANET IS ABOUT TO FALL VICTIM TO A COSMIC THREAT. WE ARE A HIGHLY ADVANCED PEOPLE BUT WE DO NOT POSSESS THE MEANS TO SAVE OURSELVES.

WE BELIEVE YOU DO.

OKAY, THAT PART, AT LEAST, MAKES SENSE.

JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW I'M LISTENING IN, KID.

WE'RE AIMING A SATELLITE AT YOU RIGHT NOW--SEE IF YOU CAN GET HIM TO TAKE OFF THE MASK SO WE CAN GET A SHOT OF HIM.

THEN WE CAN COMPARE IT TO KNOWN ALIEN RACES IN OUR DATABASE.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN--OUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION COULD BE WIPED OUT--OR SAVED--

--BY YOU.

IF I CAN HELP--I WILL. I WOULD NEVER ALLOW ANYTHING TO DIE IF I COULD PREVENT IT.

BUT SHOW ME--WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE NORMALLY--HOW ARE YOU MASKING YOUR IDENTITY SO PERFECTLY?

THIS IS A SYNTHETIC EXOSKELETON SHELL--IT IS ALSO WHAT PROTECTED ME FROM YOUR ATTACK.

WE CAN PROGRAM THESE TO TAKE ANY SHAPE--REPLICATE ANY SUBSTANCE.

OUR RESEARCH INDICATED THAT YOUR PEOPLE DO NOT RESPOND WELL TO SPECIES WITH BIOLOGY DISSIMILAR TO YOUR OWN.

WELL--I'VE SEEN A FEW MORE ALIENS THAN MOST HUMANS HAVE--

--OH, AND I'M NOT EXACTLY HUMAN MYSELF.

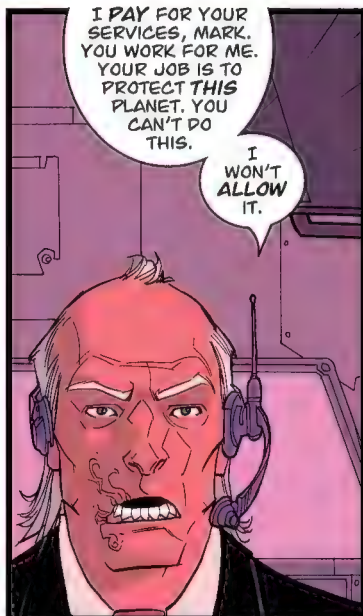
YES, WE OBSERVED YOUR ABILITIES TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY **MORE** THAN THOSE OF OTHER BEINGS ON THIS PLANET. THAT IS WHY WE SINGLED YOU OUT.

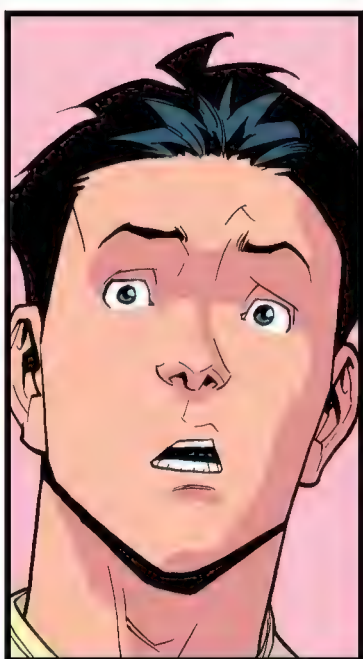
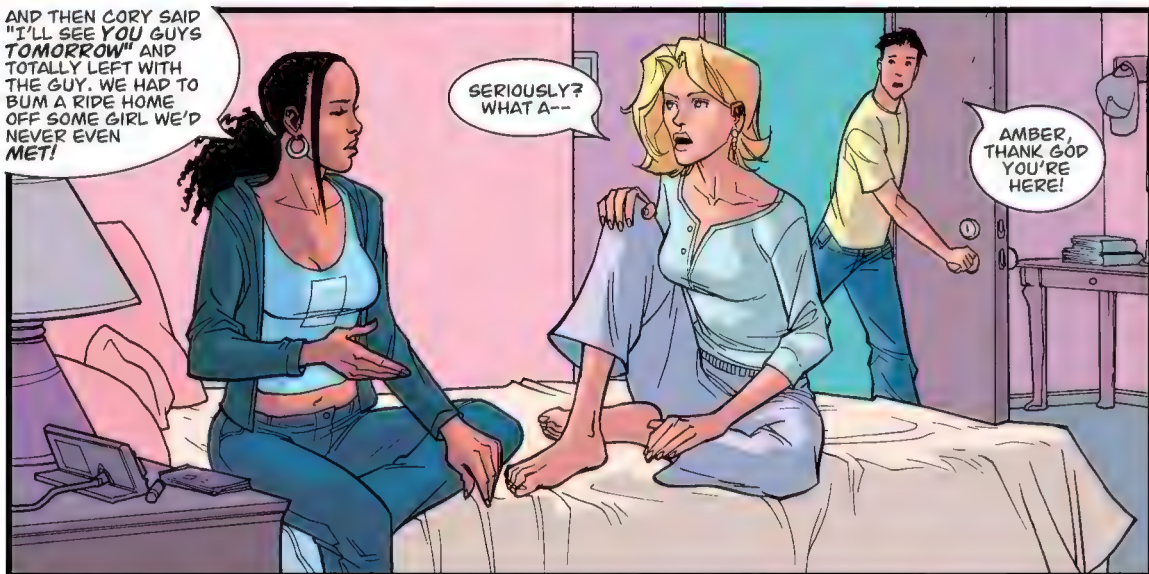
WILL YOU HELP US, MARK GRAYSON OF EARTH?

OF COURSE I WILL. BUT I NEED TO EXPLAIN TO MY MOTHER WHAT'S GOING ON AND TELL PEOPLE WHERE I'LL BE. WILL YOU GIVE ME SOME TIME TO DO THAT?

I CAN MEET YOU BACK HERE IN--TWENTY MINUTES OR SO?

THAT IS ACCEPTABLE.



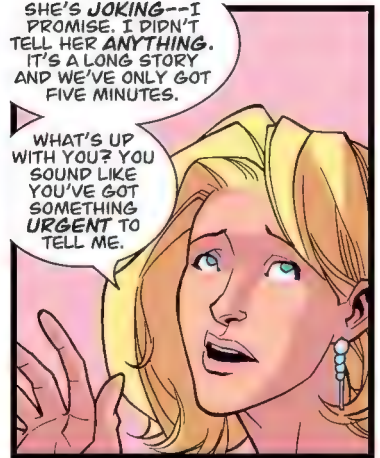




OR IF YOU DO--
MAKE SURE YOU
USE YOUR SUPER
SPEED.

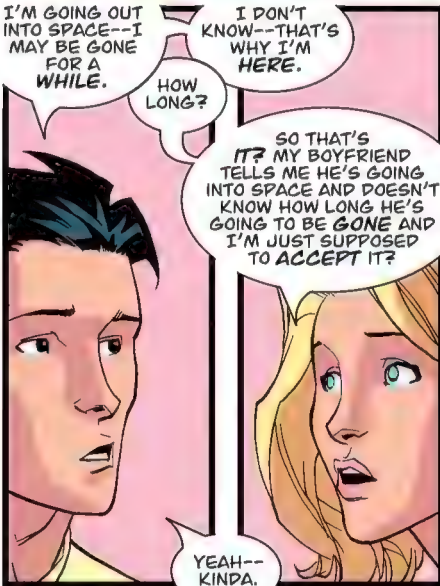


AMBER?!



SHE'S JOKING--I
PROMISE. I DIDN'T
TELL HER ANYTHING.
IT'S A LONG STORY
AND WE'VE ONLY GOT
FIVE MINUTES.

WHAT'S UP
WITH YOU? YOU
SOUND LIKE
YOU'VE GOT
SOMETHING
URGENT TO
TELL ME.



I'M GOING OUT
INTO SPACE--I
MAY BE GONE
FOR A
WHILE.

HOW
LONG?

I DON'T
KNOW--THAT'S
WHY I'M
HERE.

SO THAT'S
IT? MY BOYFRIEND
TELLS ME HE'S GOING
INTO SPACE AND DOESN'T
KNOW HOW LONG HE'S
GOING TO BE GONE AND
I'M JUST SUPPOSED
TO ACCEPT IT?

YEAH--
KINDA.



THAT'S WHY I
TOLD YOU ABOUT
MY POWERS. I DO
THIS SOMETIMES.
IF I HADN'T TOLD
YOU--I'D JUST
DISAPPEAR AND
HAVE TO EXPLAIN
IT TO YOU
LATER.

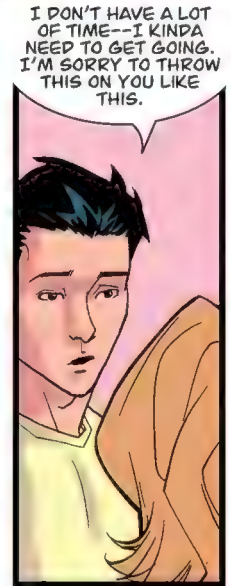
LIVES
ARE AT
STAKE--
THIS IS
WHAT I
DO.



I--I'M
GOING TO BE
SO WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU.

I KNOW,
BUT DON'T
BE--I'M
INVINCIBLE
AND ALL THAT.
YOU KNOW
THE DRILL.

WHATEVER.

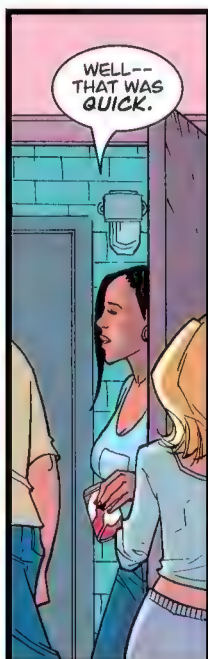


I DON'T HAVE A LOT
OF TIME--I KINDA
NEED TO GET GOING.
I'M SORRY TO THROW
THIS ON YOU LIKE
THIS.



IT'S
OKAY--
JUST
GO...

...AND
BE CARE-
FUL.

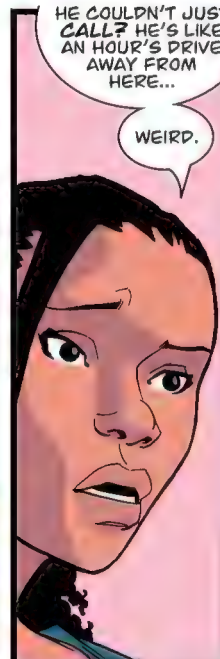


WELL--
THAT WAS
QUICK.



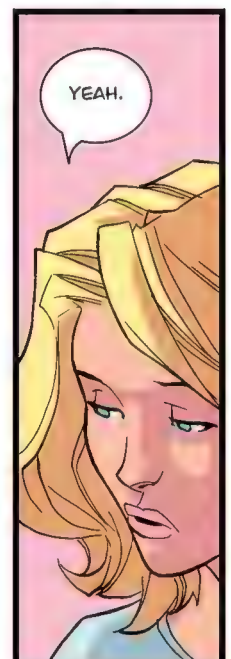
WHAT
WAS THAT
ALL
ABOUT?

LAST
MINUTE TRIP.
HE CAME BY
TO LET ME
KNOW HE'D
BE OUT OF
TOWN FOR A
WHILE.

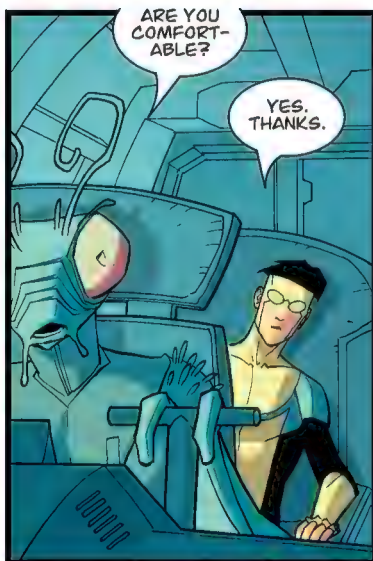
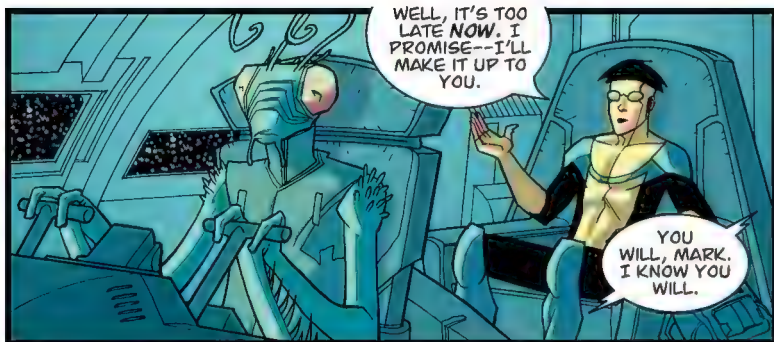
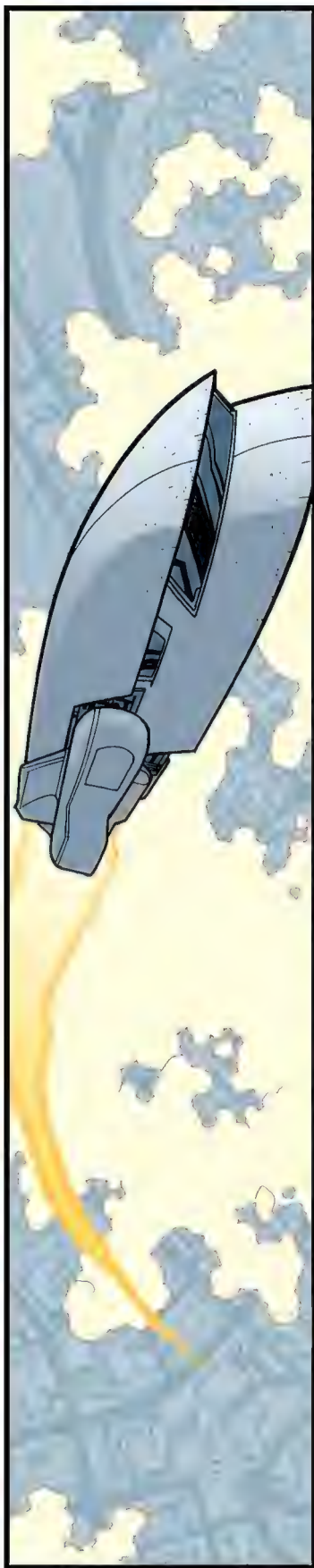


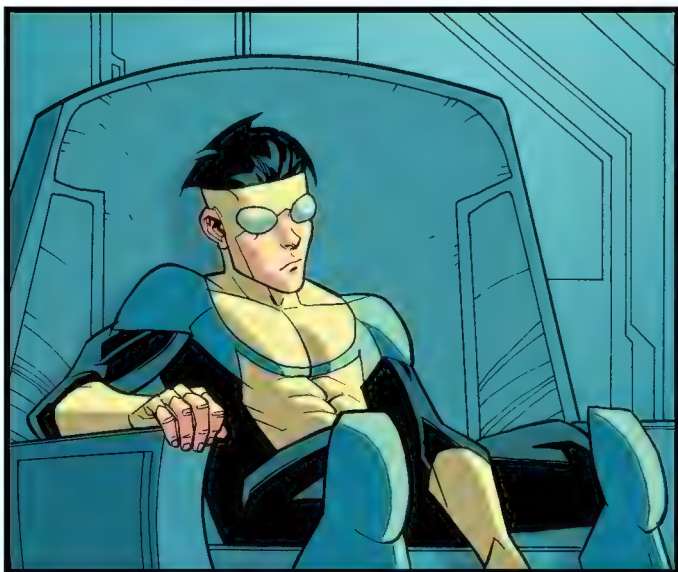
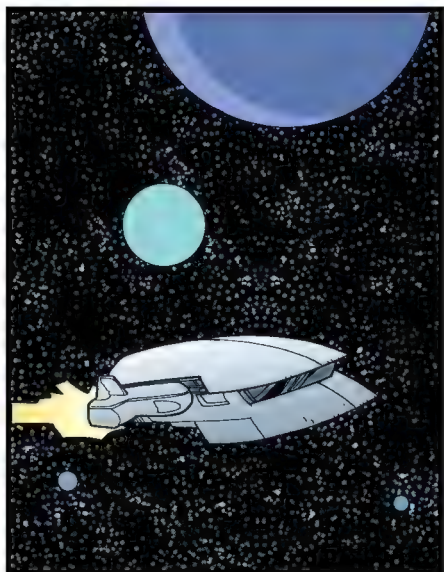
HE COULDN'T JUST
CALL? HE'S LIKE
AN HOUR'S DRIVE
AWAY FROM
HERE...

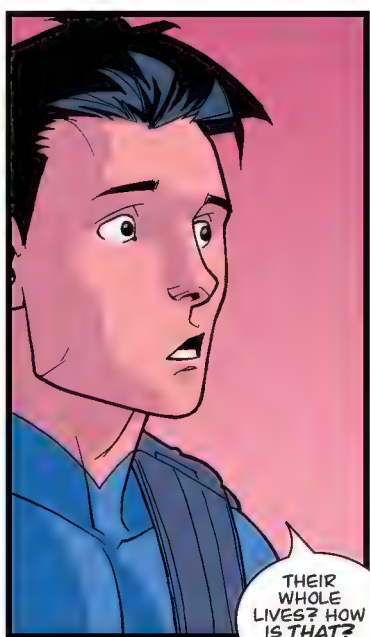
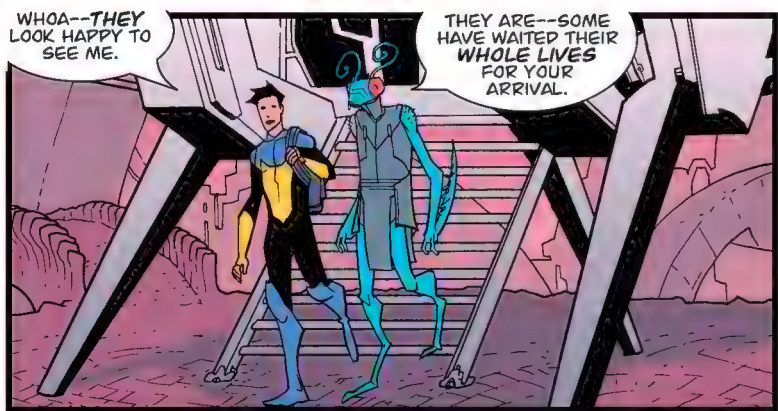
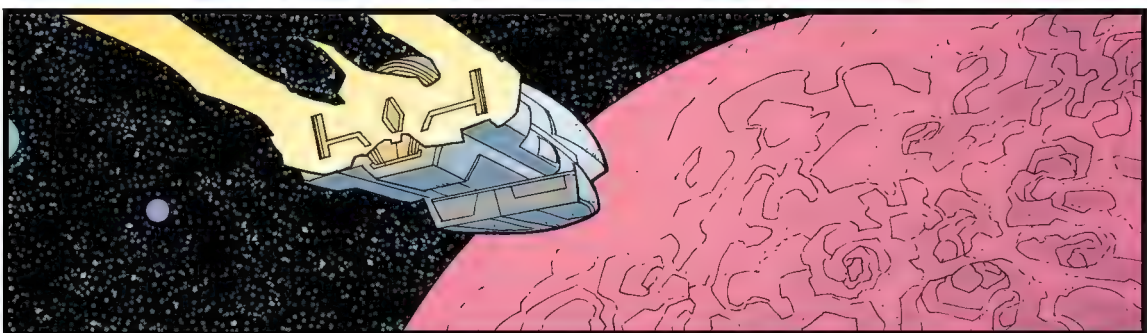
WEIRD.

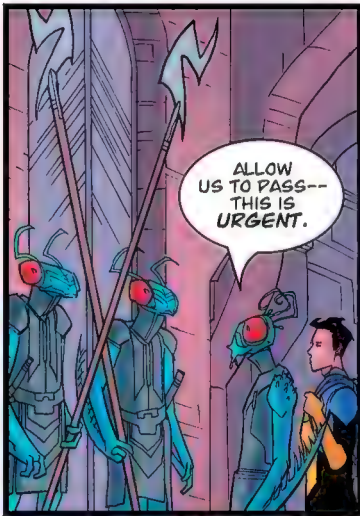


YEAH.











HELLO,
SON. IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE.

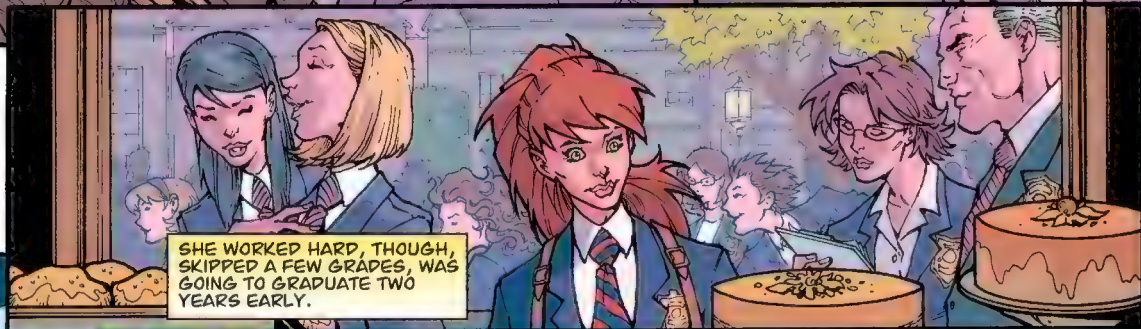
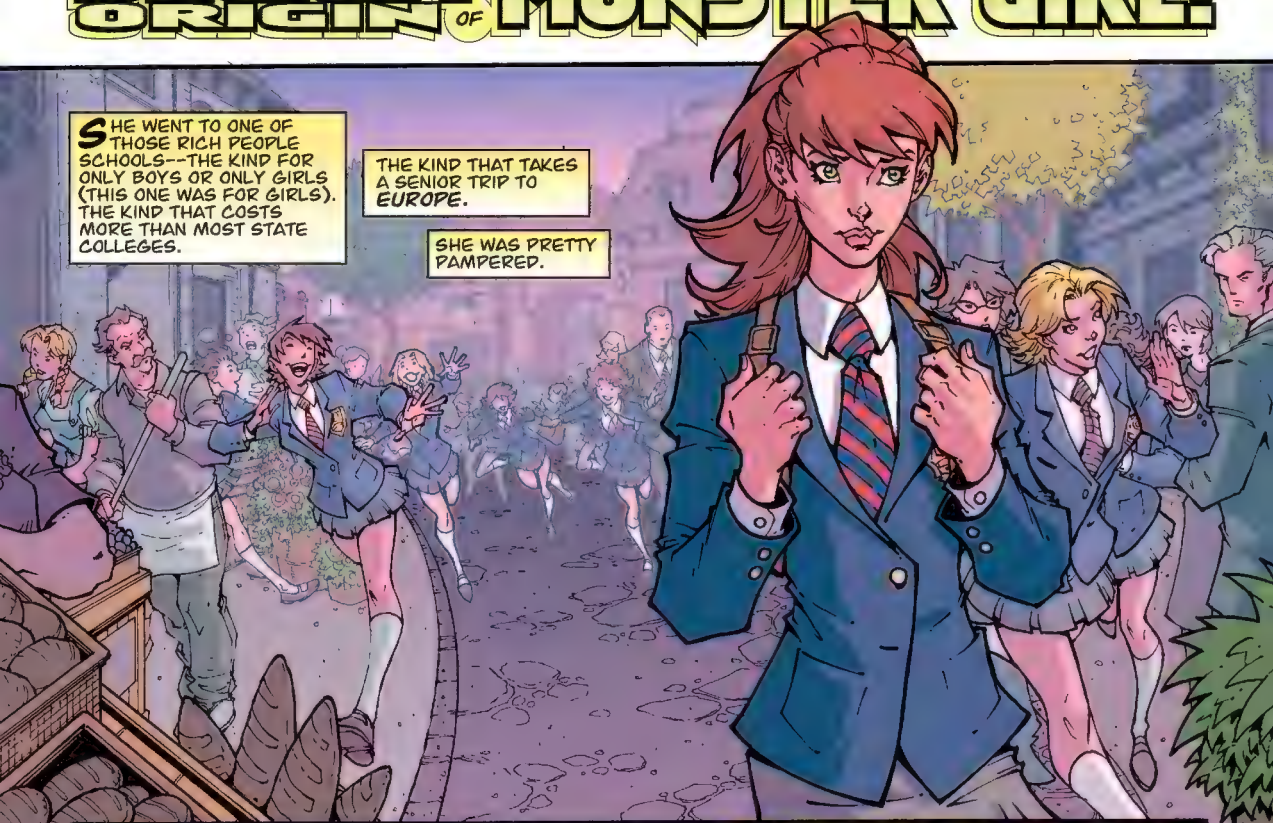
YOU'RE
LOOKING
WELL.

AT LONG LAST--THE SECRET ORIGIN OF MONSTER GIRL!

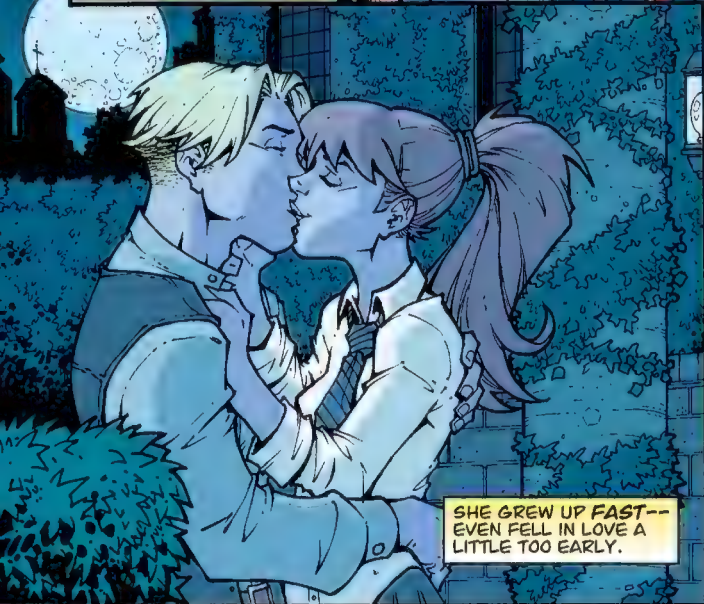
SHE WENT TO ONE OF THOSE RICH PEOPLE SCHOOLS--THE KIND FOR ONLY BOYS OR ONLY GIRLS (THIS ONE WAS FOR GIRLS). THE KIND THAT COSTS MORE THAN MOST STATE COLLEGES.

THE KIND THAT TAKES A SENIOR TRIP TO EUROPE.

SHE WAS PRETTY PAMPERED.



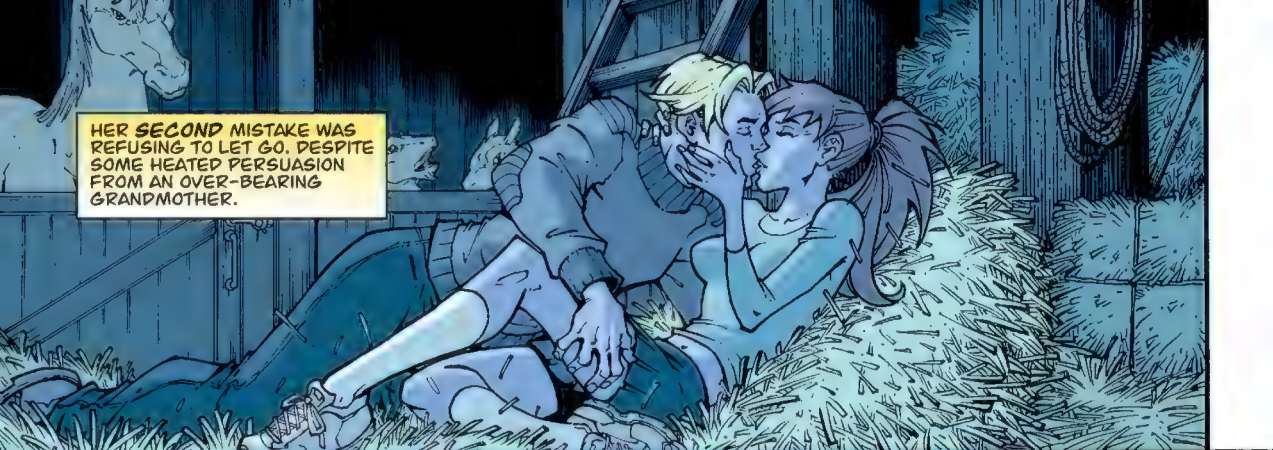
SHE WORKED HARD, THOUGH, SKIPPED A FEW GRADES, WAS GOING TO GRADUATE TWO YEARS EARLY.



SHE GREW UP FAST--EVEN FELL IN LOVE A LITTLE TOO EARLY.




THAT WAS HER FIRST MISTAKE.



HER SECOND MISTAKE WAS REFUSING TO LET GO. DESPITE SOME HEATED PERSUASION FROM AN OVER-BEARING GRANDMOTHER.




HER THIRD MISTAKE WAS BEING SEEN.

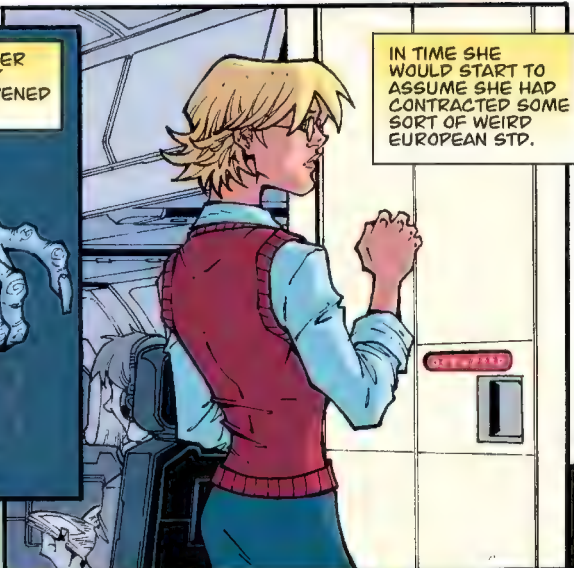


THE LOVE OF HER LIFE'S GRANDMOTHER WAS A PRACTITIONER OF ARCAINE MAGIC. SPELLS, INCANTATIONS, HEXES...

...CURSES.




SHE WOULD NEVER KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HER.



IN TIME SHE WOULD START TO ASSUME SHE HAD CONTRACTED SOME SORT OF WEIRD EUROPEAN STD.



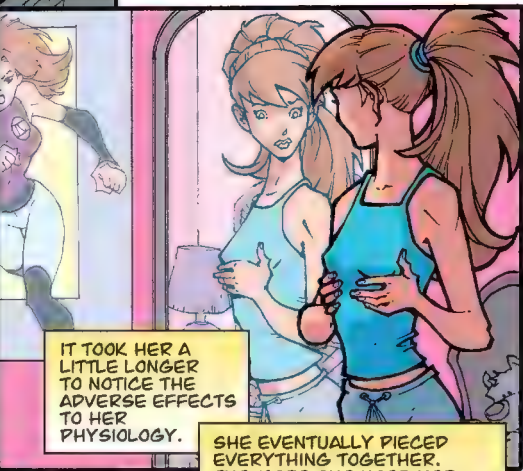
OF COURSE, AT FIRST, SHE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



AT FIRST THE CHANGES WERE VERY MUCH INVOLUNTARY. SOMETHING THAT MADE THE PLANE RIDE HOME PRETTY DIFFICULT.




IT TOOK HER NO TIME AT ALL TO FIND A USE FOR HER NEW ABILITIES.

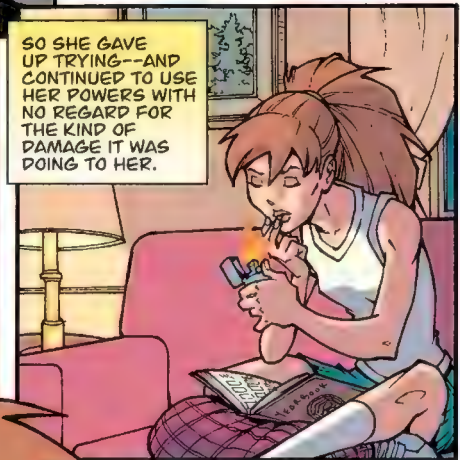


IT TOOK HER A LITTLE LONGER TO NOTICE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS TO HER PHYSIOLOGY.

SHE EVENTUALLY PIECED EVERYTHING TOGETHER. THE MORE SHE USED HER NEW POWERS THE YOUNGER SHE WOULD GET--AND THE LARGER AND MORE POWERFUL HER OTHER FORM WOULD BECOME.



SHE TRIED TO USE HER POWERS LESS AND LESS BUT IT SEEMED THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT REQUIRED HER ATTENTION.



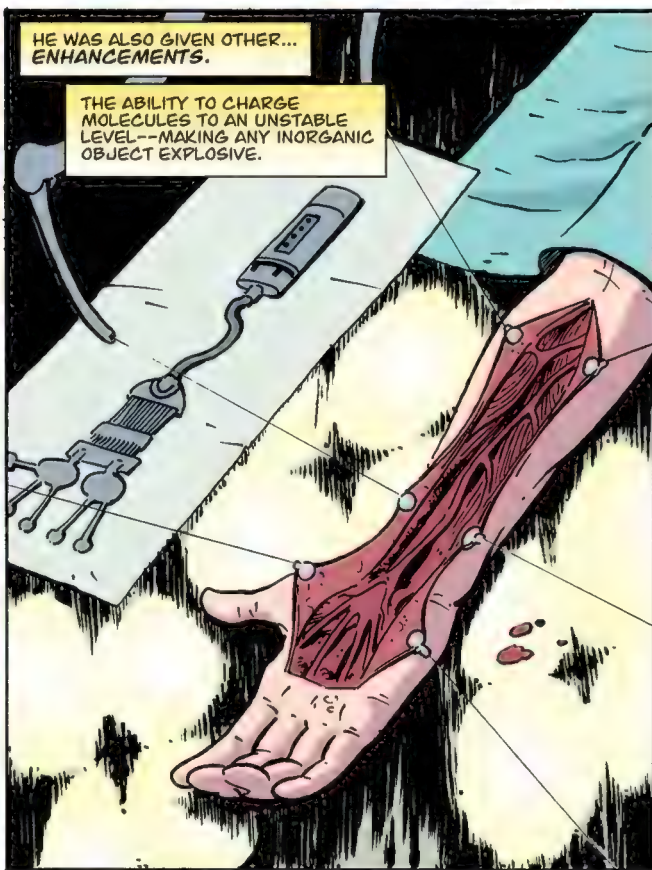
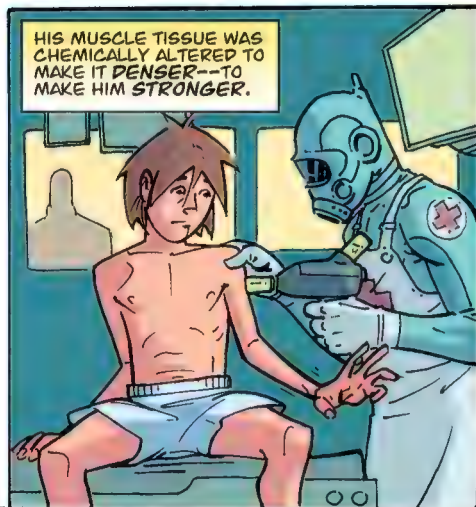
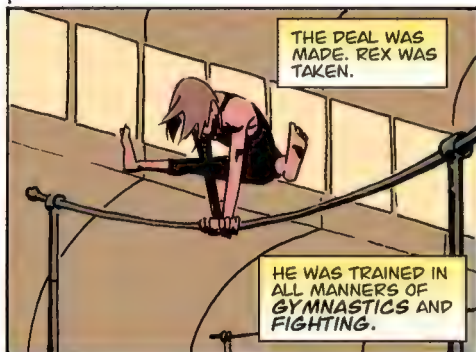
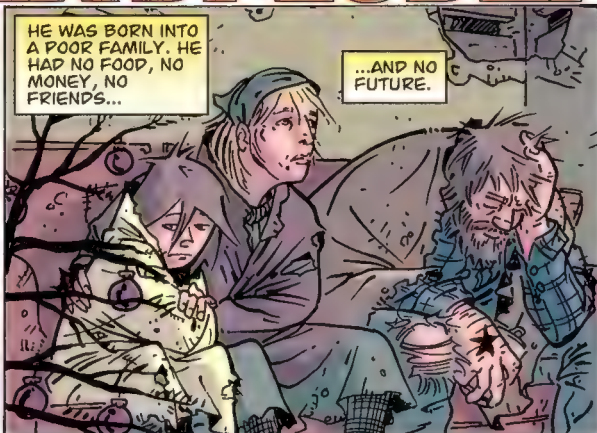
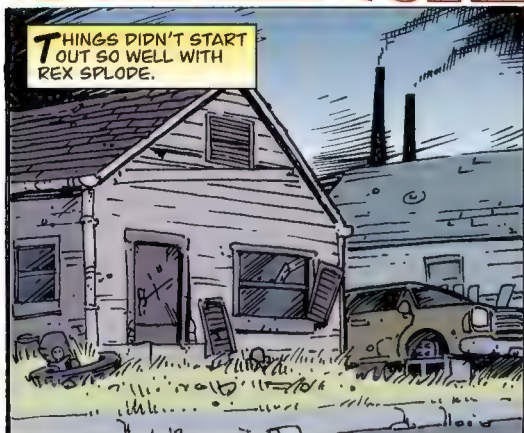
SO SHE GAVE UP TRYING--AND CONTINUED TO USE HER POWERS WITH NO REGARD FOR THE KIND OF DAMAGE IT WAS DOING TO HER.

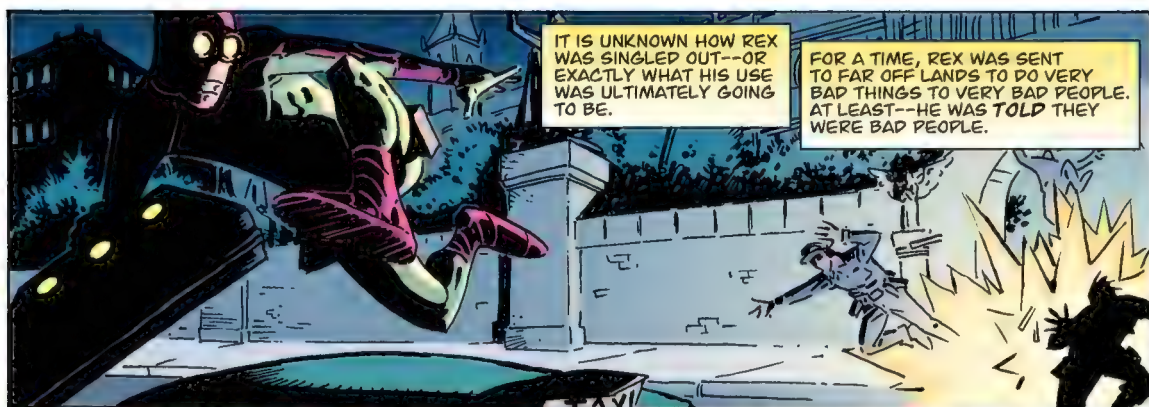


REMEMBER, SHE WAS A PAMPERED LITTLE RICH GIRL.

THEY DON'T USUALLY DEAL WITH THESE KINDS OF THINGS VERY WELL.

AT LONG LAST... THE SECRET ORIGIN OF REX SPLODE!





IT IS UNKNOWN HOW REX WAS SINGLED OUT--OR EXACTLY WHAT HIS USE WAS ULTIMATELY GOING TO BE.

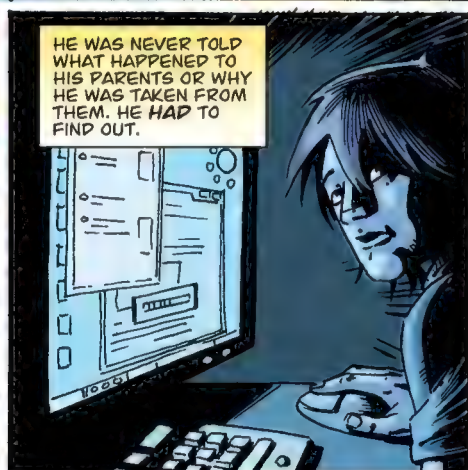
FOR A TIME, REX WAS SENT TO FAR OFF LANDS TO DO VERY BAD THINGS TO VERY BAD PEOPLE. AT LEAST--HE WAS TOLD THEY WERE BAD PEOPLE.



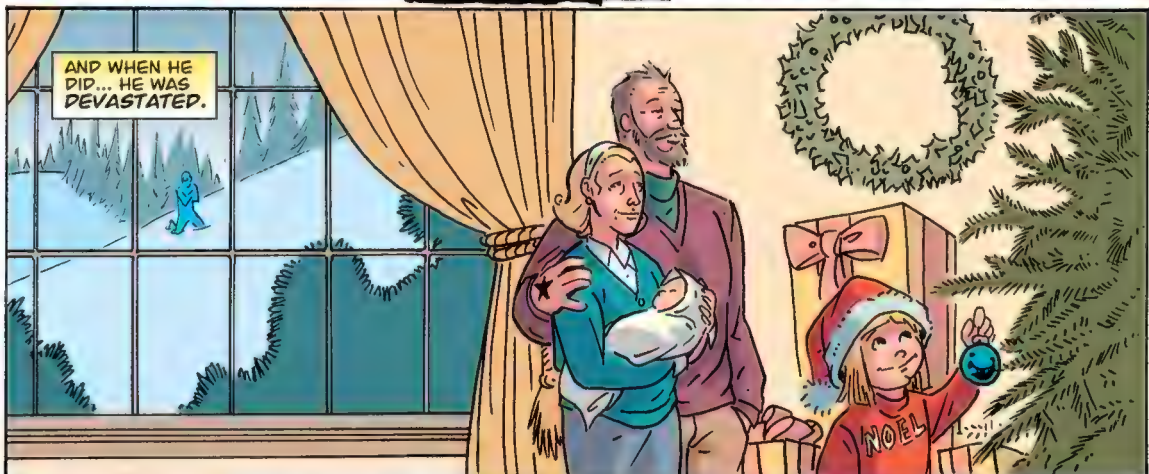
FOR A TIME HE WAS LOYAL. VERY LOYAL.



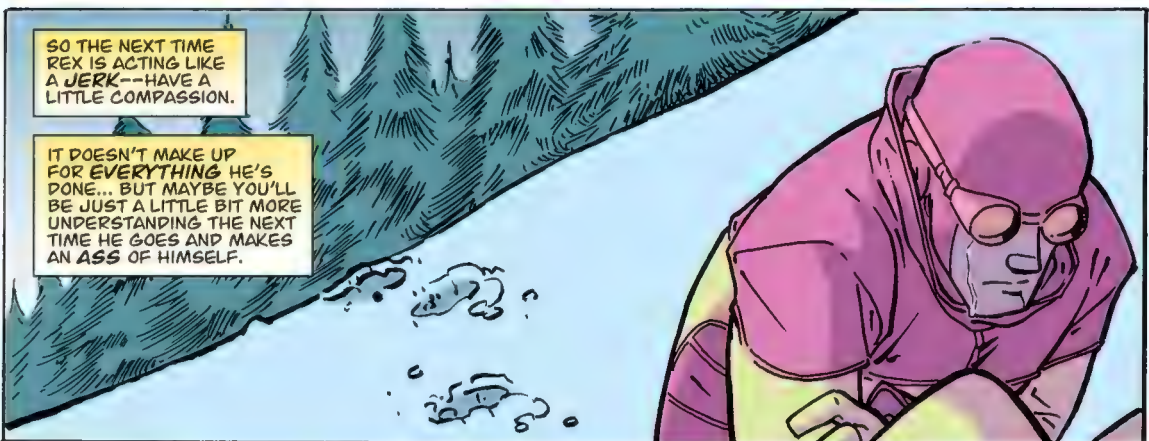
UNTIL HE ESCAPED.



HE WAS NEVER TOLD WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS PARENTS OR WHY HE WAS TAKEN FROM THEM. HE HAD TO FIND OUT.



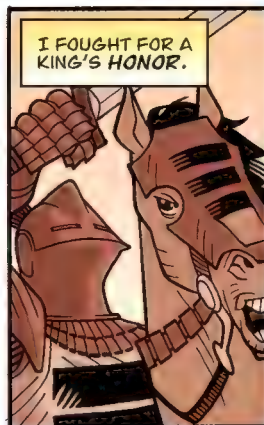
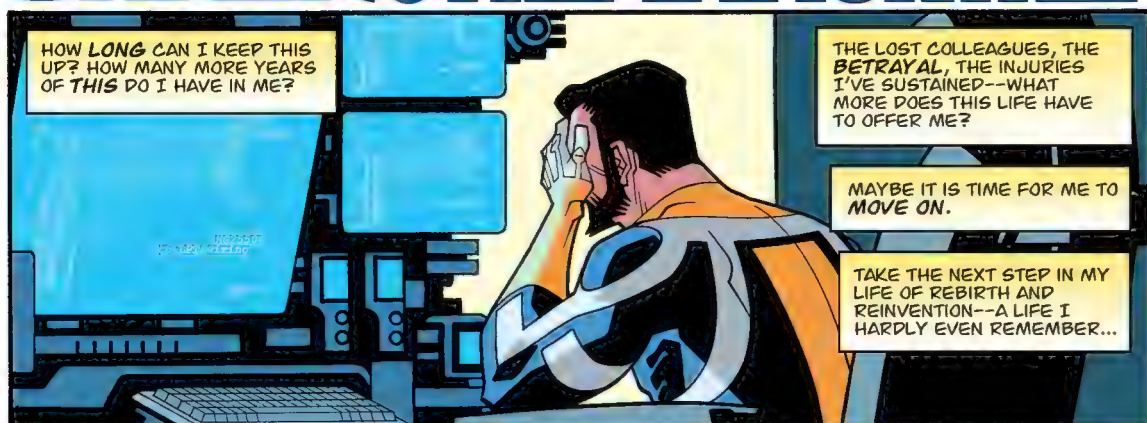
AND WHEN HE DID... HE WAS DEVASTATED.



SO THE NEXT TIME REX IS ACTING LIKE A JERK--HAVE A LITTLE COMPASSION.

IT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR EVERYTHING HE'S DONE... BUT MAYBE YOU'LL BE JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE UNDERSTANDING THE NEXT TIME HE GOES AND MAKES AN ASS OF HIMSELF.

AT LONG LAST--THE SECRET ORIGIN OF THE IMMORTAL!



AT LONG LAST THE SECRET ORIGIN OF DUPLI-KATE!

ANCIENT CHINA.

THE RUTHLESS WARLORD FUNG CHA WAS FIGHTING HIS WAY TO THE EMPEROR WITH ONE GOAL IN MIND--TAKING CONTROL OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

FUNG CHA WAS A SKILLED FIGHTER AND WAS MAKING HIS WAY THROUGH THE EMPEROR'S ELITE GUARD WITH LITTLE EFFORT.

SOME WOULD SAY CHA WAS A **FREEDOM FIGHTER**, SAVING THE WORLD FROM THIS EVIL EMPEROR. OTHERS WOULD CLAIM CHA WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A **POWER HUNGRY MADMAN**.

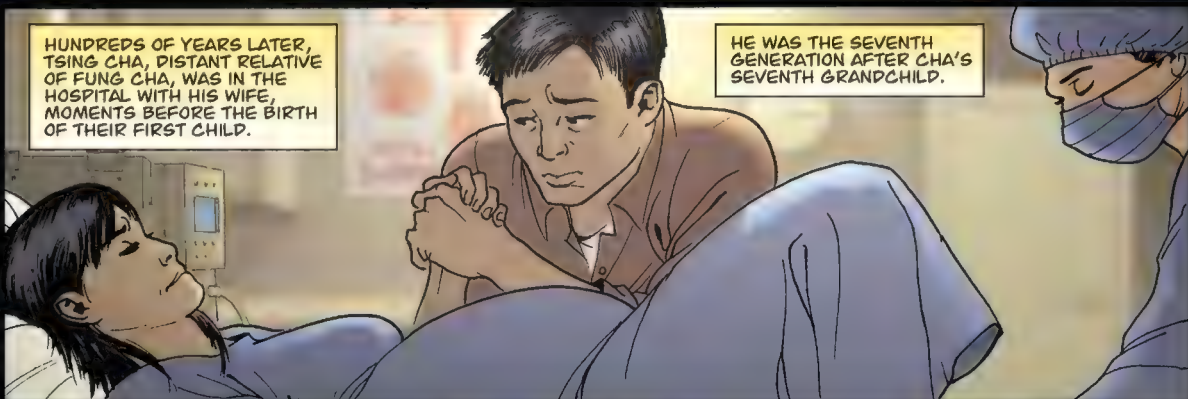
REGARDLESS OF HIS TRUE MOTIVES, HIS GOAL WAS ACHIEVED.

MOMENTS BEFORE HIS DEATH THE EMPEROR CURSED FUNG CHA.

THE SEVENTH GENERATION AFTER CHA'S SEVENTH GRANDCHILD WOULD BE BURDENED WITH A FAMILY TOO LARGE FOR HIM TO CARE FOR... AND IT WOULD DRIVE HIM MAD.

AS FAR AS CURSES GO...

...FUNG CHA GOT OFF LIGHT.

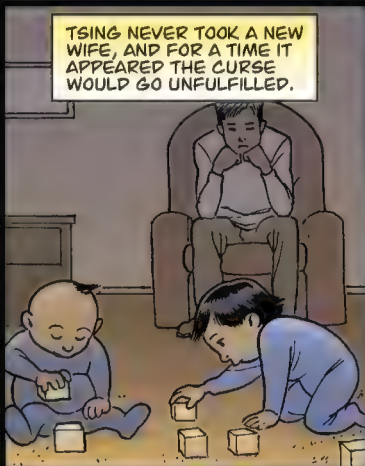


HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER, TSING CHA, DISTANT RELATIVE OF FUNG CHA, WAS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH HIS WIFE, MOMENTS BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD.

HE WAS THE SEVENTH GENERATION AFTER CHA'S SEVENTH GRANDCHILD.



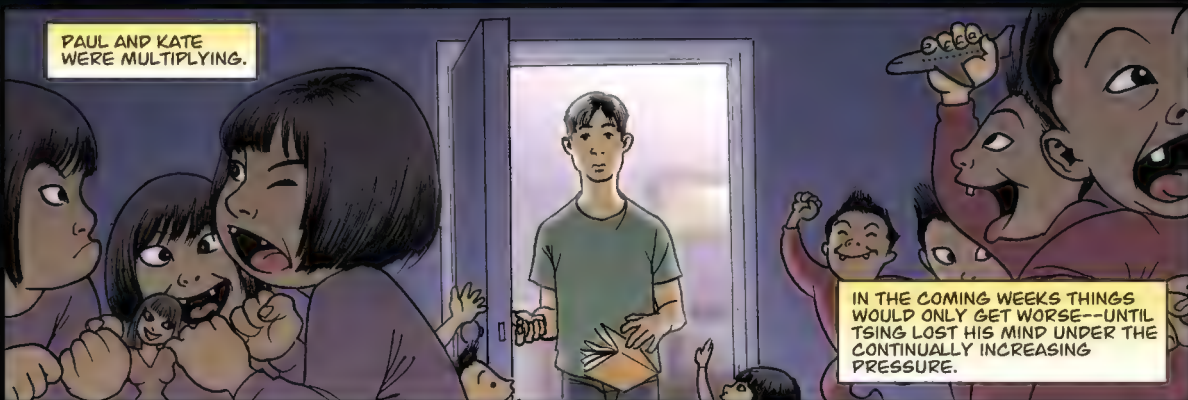
IN A TRAGIC TURN OF FATE, TSING'S WIFE DIED IN CHILD-BIRTH. LEAVING TSING TO RAISE THEIR TWINS, WHO HE NAMED PAUL AND KATE.



TSING NEVER TOOK A NEW WIFE, AND FOR A TIME IT APPEARED THE CURSE WOULD GO UNFULFILLED.

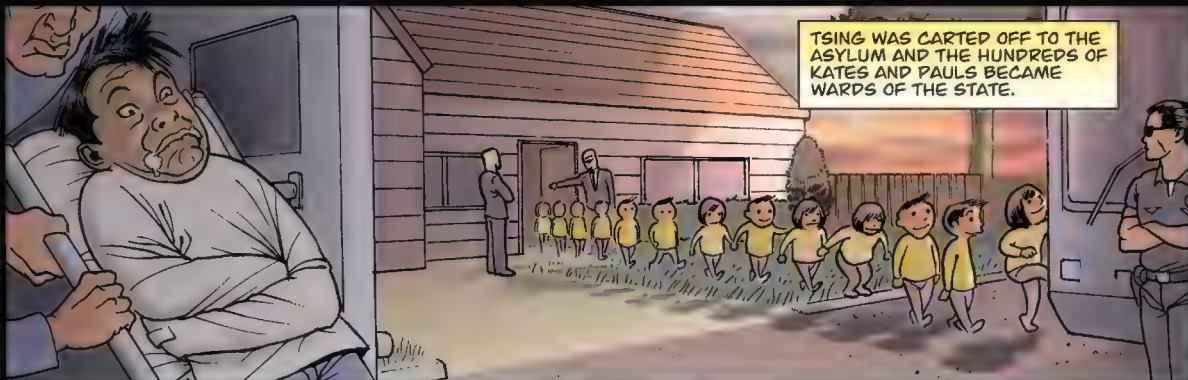


BUT THE EMPEROR'S RAGE WOULD NOT BE DENIED.

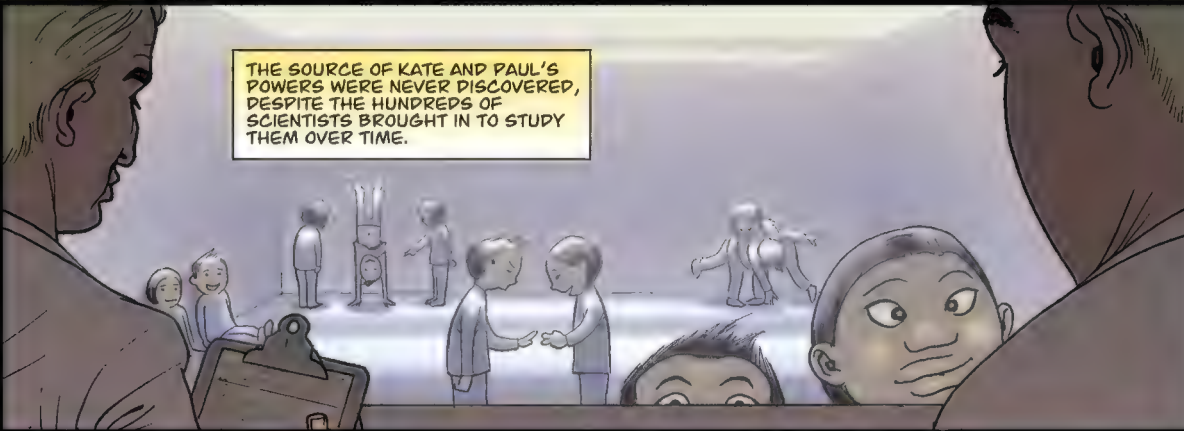


PAUL AND KATE WERE MULTIPLYING.


IN THE COMING WEEKS THINGS WOULD ONLY GET WORSE--UNTIL TSING LOST HIS MIND UNDER THE CONTINUALLY INCREASING PRESSURE.



TSING WAS CARTED OFF TO THE ASYLUM AND THE HUNDREDS OF KATES AND PAULS BECAME WARDS OF THE STATE.



THE SOURCE OF KATE AND PAUL'S POWERS WERE NEVER DISCOVERED, DESPITE THE HUNDREDS OF SCIENTISTS BROUGHT IN TO STUDY THEM OVER TIME.



WHEN THEY REACHED PUBERTY, BOTH KATE AND PAUL GAINED CONTROL OF THEIR POWERS, ABLE TO MULTIPLY AND ABSORB THEIR DUPLICATES AT WILL.

THEY BECAME A TEENAGE HEROIC DUO, RIGHTING WRONGS AND KEEPING THE WORLD SAFE.

DUPLI-KATE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE TEEN TEAM AND LATER AN INTEGRAL MEMBER OF THE SECOND VERSION OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE. WHERE SHE CONTINUES TO FIGHT CRIME TO THIS DAY.

THE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS AND STATUS OF MULTI-PAUL ARE UNKNOWN.

AT LONG LAST--THE SECRET ORIGIN OF ATOM EVE!

THE STORY STARTED OUT ON A RATHER SAD NOTE-- BUT HEY, YOU HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE.

I--I'M SORRY, HONEY--I'M SO SORRY.

OH, ADAM!

ERICKSON, SIR--I'M SORRY--THERE WAS JUST NOTHING I COULD DO FOR HER. THE BABY DIED IN CHILDBIRTH--IT WAS OUT OF MY HANDS.

YOU ARE OUT OF LINE, DOCTOR BRANDYWORTH--THIS WAS OUR PROJECT--YOU SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED ME BEFORE YOU CHOSE A CIVILIAN HOSPITAL.

DOCTOR RODGERS, LISTEN TO ME--THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO GET THE TEST SUBJECT TO THE BASE--THE BABY WAS COMING.

AND NOW IT'S DEAD. THAT'S MILLIONS OF TAX DOLLARS DOWN THE DRAIN, BRANDYWORTH. IF YOU MAKE IT TO TOMORROW WITHOUT LOSING YOUR JOB OVER THIS, I'LL BE SURPRISED.

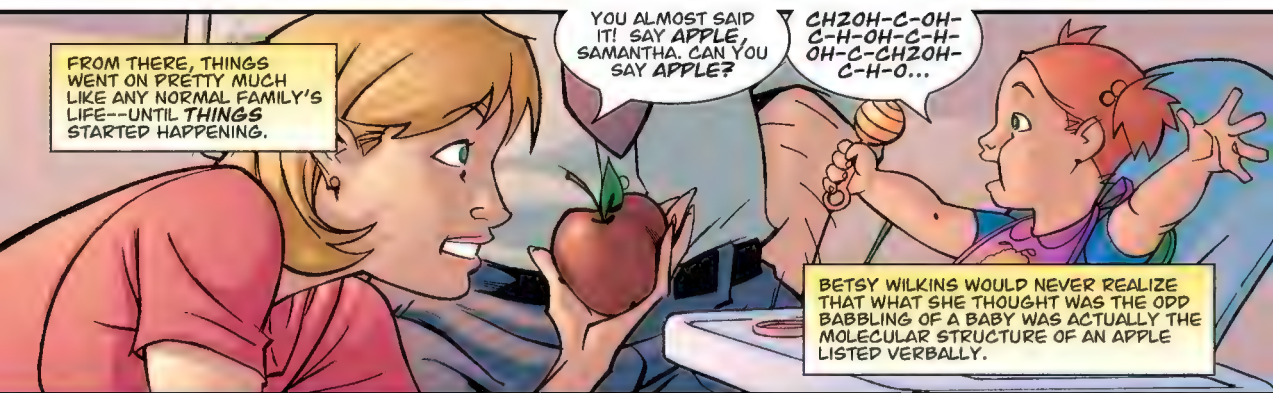
ADAM AND BETSY WILKINS? I HAVE YOUR BABY RIGHT HERE. IT WAS TOUCH AND GO FOR A WHILE BUT THE DOCTORS WERE ABLE TO SAVE HER.

BUT-- BUT WE WERE TOLD--

ADAM, SHUSH! PLEASE--JUST ACCEPT THE MIRACLE.

OUR BABY IS ALIVE...

OUR SAMANTHA EVE WILKINS.



FROM THERE, THINGS WENT ON PRETTY MUCH LIKE ANY NORMAL FAMILY'S LIFE--UNTIL **THINGS** STARTED HAPPENING.

YOU ALMOST SAID IT! SAY APPLE, SAMANTHA. CAN YOU SAY APPLE?

CH₂OH-C-OH-C-H-OH-C-H-OH-C-CH₂OH-C-H-O...

BETSY WILKINS WOULD NEVER REALIZE THAT WHAT SHE THOUGHT WAS THE ODD BABBLING OF A BABY WAS ACTUALLY THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF AN APPLE LISTED VERBALLY.

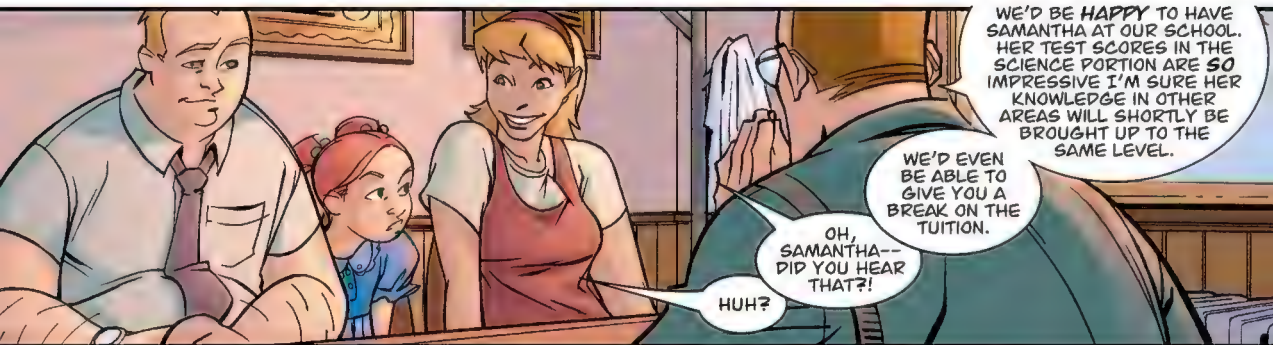


KEEP PLAYING, SAMANTHA-- I JUST HOPE YOUR PARENTS DON'T COME HOME EARLY TO SEE THAT YOU'RE STILL UP.

I'LL PUT YOU TO BED AS SOON AS I FIGURE OUT WHY MERCURY IS A LIQUID EVEN THOUGH IT'S SURROUNDED BY SOLIDS ON THE PERIODIC TABLE.

BECAUSE ITS VALENCE SHELL IS SP¹⁰ 6S², WHICH, UM...MAKES THE TWO OUTERMOST ELECTRONS IN A SPHERICALLY SYMMETRIC, ENERGETICALLY STABLE QUANTUM STATE.

6S ELECTRONS ARE ESPECIALLY INERT, AND THEREFORE DON'T OFTEN FORM CHEMICAL BONDS. MERCURY ISN'T LIKELY TO GIVE UP ITS OUTER ELECTRONS, AND SO IT INTERACTS WITH OTHER ATOMS WEAKLY AT BEST. SO IT'S--A, UM...LIQUID AT ROOM TEMPERATURE.



WE'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE SAMANTHA AT OUR SCHOOL. HER TEST SCORES IN THE SCIENCE PORTION ARE SO IMPRESSIVE I'M SURE HER KNOWLEDGE IN OTHER AREAS WILL SHORTLY BE BROUGHT UP TO THE SAME LEVEL.

WE'D EVEN BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A BREAK ON THE TUITION.

OH, SAMANTHA-- DID YOU HEAR THAT?!

HUH?!



I COULDN'T DO IT, DAD!! I WAS JUST GOOD AT THE SCIENCE STUFF--I'M GLAD THEY KICKED ME OUT!

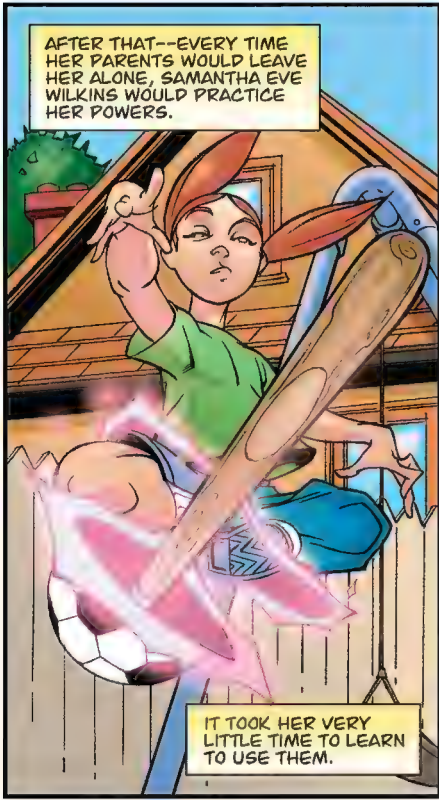
I'LL NOT HAVE SHOUTING AT MY TABLE! FINISH YOUR DINNER IN YOUR ROOM!



I DON'T WANT CHICKEN-- I WANT--



...A CHEESE-BUGER?!



AFTER THAT--EVERY TIME HER PARENTS WOULD LEAVE HER ALONE, SAMANTHA EVE WILKINS WOULD PRACTICE HER POWERS.

IT TOOK HER VERY LITTLE TIME TO LEARN TO USE THEM.

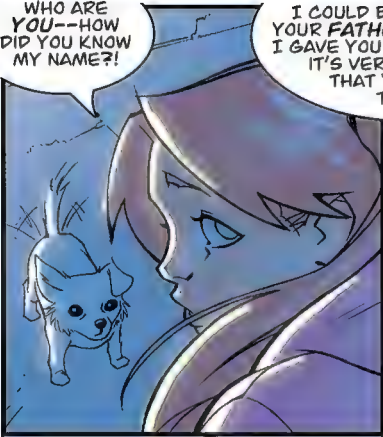


SOON SHE WAS PUTTING THEM TO GOOD USE.

THERE, THERE, DOGGY. THEY WON'T BE TAKING YOU TO EXPERIMENT ON NOW. YOU'RE SAFE, NOW.

YOU'RE ALL SAFE.

MISS WILKINS...



WHO ARE YOU--HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?!

I COULD BE CONSIDERED YOUR FATHER--IN A SENSE. I GAVE YOU YOUR POWERS--IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU LISTEN TO ME.



YOU WERE THE SUBJECT OF IN UTERO EXPERIMENTS--FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THEY WERE GOING TO TURN YOU INTO A WEAPON--BUT I COULDN'T ALLOW THAT.



WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS VERY DANGEROUS. I STAGED YOUR DEATH--REPLACED YOU WITH A BABY WHO HAD DIED DURING BIRTH--SO YOU COULD HAVE A LIFE WITH THE WILKINS FAMILY--BUT YOU HAVE TO STAY A SECRET!

IF THEY LEARN OF YOUR POWERS BEING USED--THEY'LL KNOW YOU LIVED--THEY WON'T STOP UNTIL THEY RECOVER YOU.



YOU MUST STOP THIS AT ONCE! STOP USING YOUR POWERS FOR ANYTHING--FOREVER-- THEY MUST NOT DISCOVER YOU SURVIVED.

IF THEY FIND YOU--THEY WILL TAKE YOU--YOU'LL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A WEAPON--YOUR LIFE AS YOU KNOW IT--WILL END!

OBTAINING--SHE FOUND A WAY TO AVOID ALL THIS, BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME.

SCIENCE DOG



THIS HASN'T BEEN ONE OF THE MORE ENJOYABLE PERIODS IN MY LIFE.

I'M IN AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION OF SOME SORT, I THINK.

OR MAYBE I'M ON ANOTHER PLANET FAR FROM EARTH.

I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO FIGURE IT OUT, YET. I'VE BEEN HERE FOR FIVE MONTHS--BUT I'VE BEEN A TAD PREOCCUPIED.

YOU SEE, THAT'S THE UNDISPUTED RULER OF THIS WORLD RIGHT THERE CRASHING DOWN ON TOP OF ME. HE'S A BIT OF A TYRANT.

HE'S ALSO NOT QUITE SO UNDISPUTED ANY MORE.





IT TOOK ME ALMOST TWO WEEKS TO LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE.

(IT'S OVER...)

I'LL ADMIT, IT WAS A TAD EMBARRASSING THAT IT TOOK SO LONG--UNTIL ONE OF THEM TRIED TO LEARN ENGLISH.



(LORD PACALL HAS BEEN SLAIN. MY POWERS ARE RETURNING.)

(HOWEVER, I FEAR OUR QUEST FOR THE DESTINY SWORD HAS WEAKENED ME.)

(IF I AM TO RETURN YOU TO YOUR HOME WORLD, SCIENCE--I BELIEVE IT MUST BE NOW...)

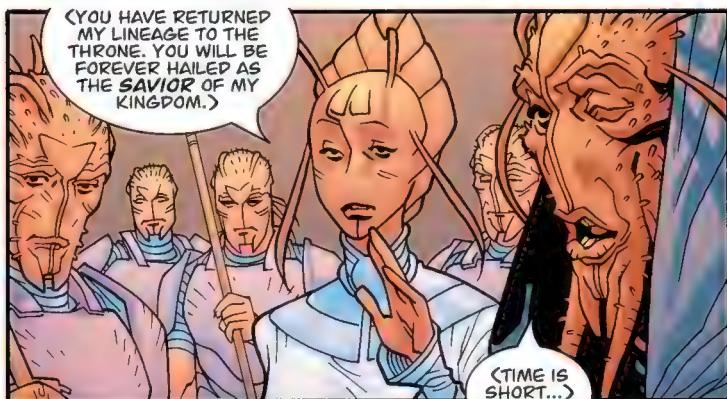
(...WHILST THE SURGE OF MY RETURNED POWER GIVES ME THE ENERGY TO DO SO.)



(I WILL MISS YOU.)

(AND I YOU, BRAVE SCIENCE...)

(...MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW.)



(YOU HAVE RETURNED MY LINEAGE TO THE THRONE. YOU WILL BE FOREVER HAILED AS THE SAVIOR OF MY KINGDOM.)

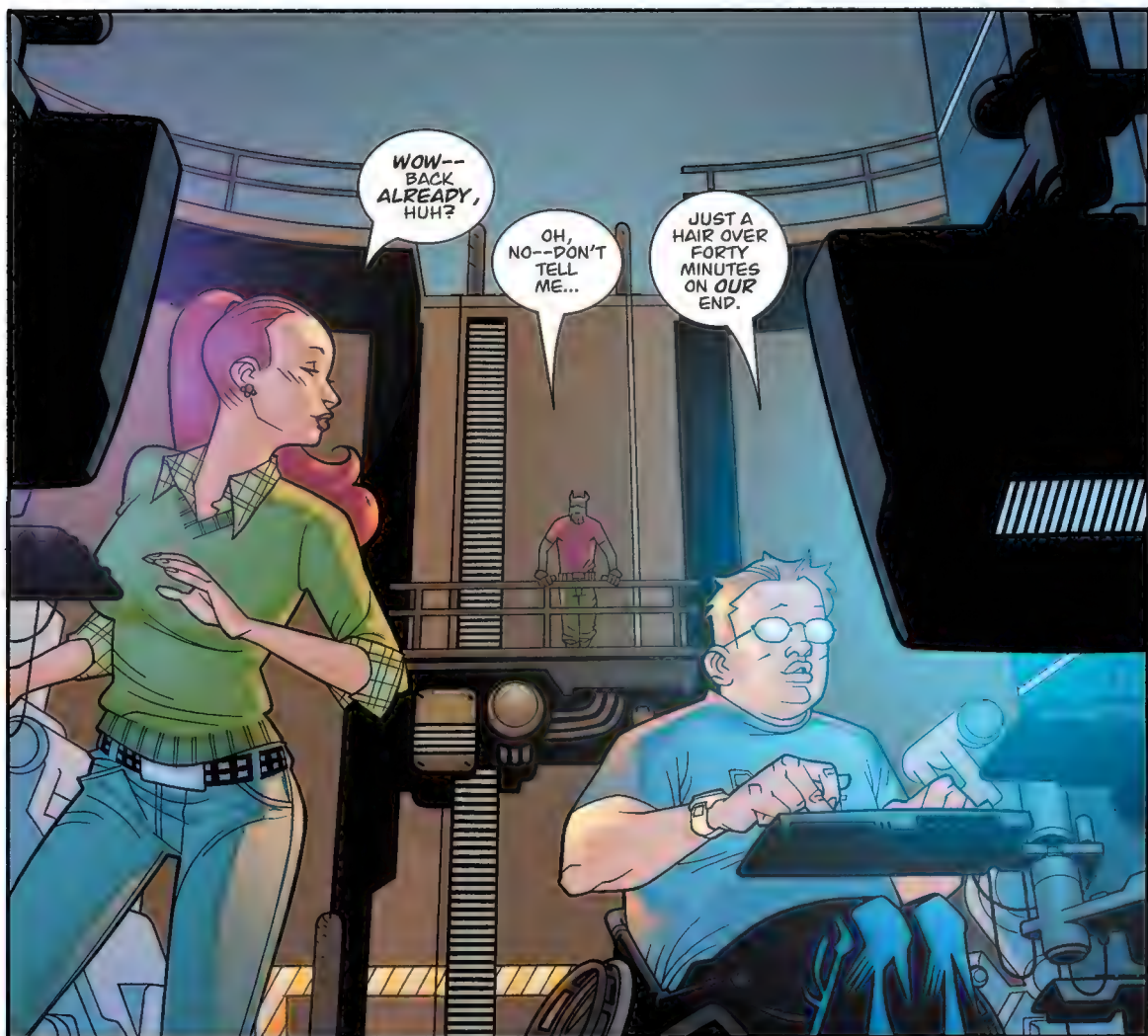
(TIME IS SHORT...)



(YES, BAKTUN. I UNDERSTAND.)

(GOODBYE, PRINCESS.)





WOW--
BACK
ALREADY,
HUH?

OH,
NO--DON'T
TELL
ME...

JUST A
HAIR OVER
FORTY
MINUTES
ON OUR
END.

JEEZ, GUYS--IT
WAS ABOUT FIVE
MONTHS FOR
ME.

PEOPLE
OR DOG
YEARS?

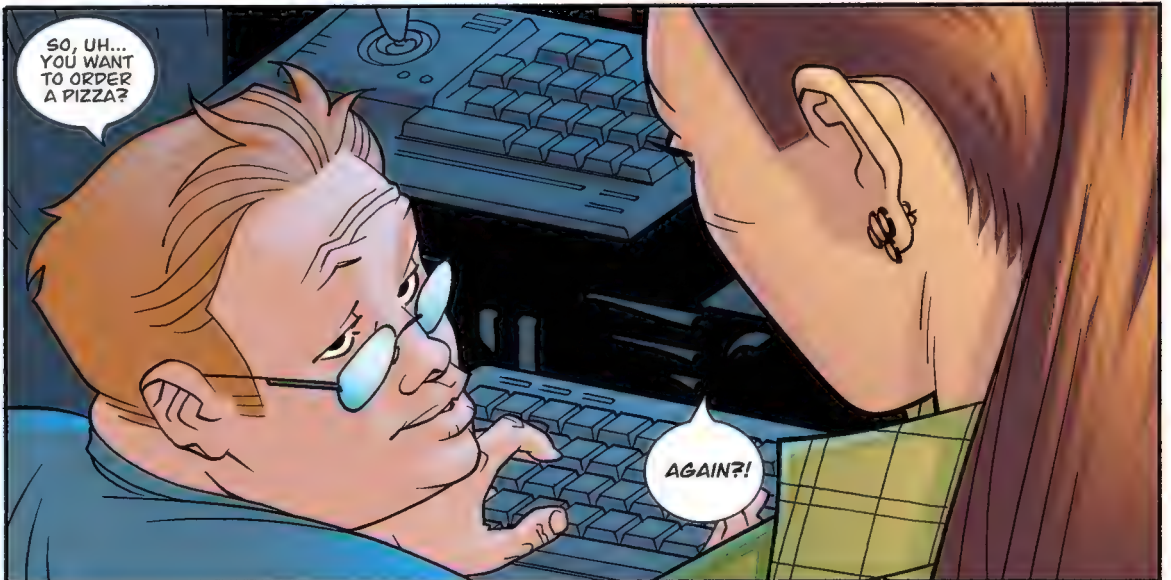
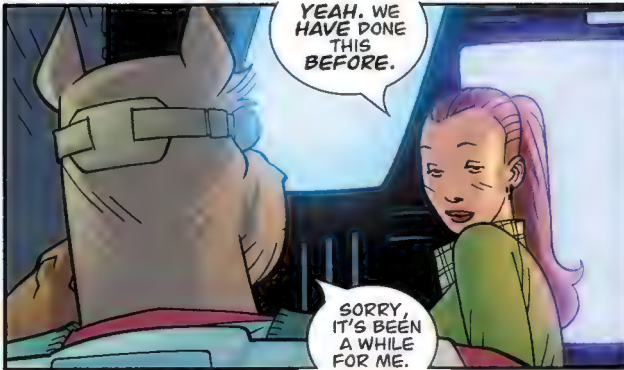
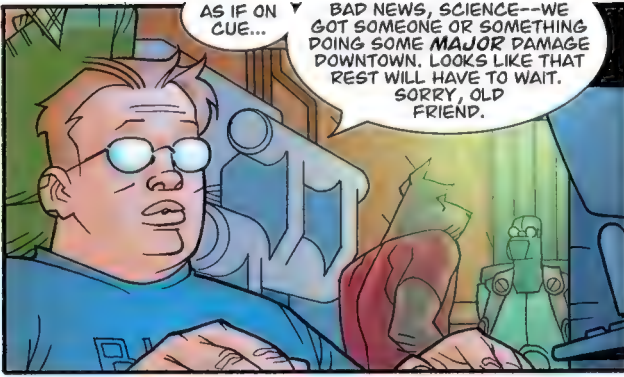
THAT OLD JOKE AGAIN,
RACHEL? VERY FUNNY.
LISTEN, GUYS, IT'S BEEN
A ROUGH FEW MONTHS...
I THINK I'M GOING TO
CALL IT A
DAY.

GET SOME REST,
BUDDY. I'LL LET YOU
KNOW IF ANYTHING
COMES UP. IT'S BEEN
PRETTY DEAD
ALL DAY.

I NEED
TO INVENT
A TRANS-
DIMENSIONAL
TIME KEEPING
DEVICE.

I FEEL
LIKE I'VE
AGED A
YEAR THIS
MONTH.

DEEP DEEP DEEP DEEP

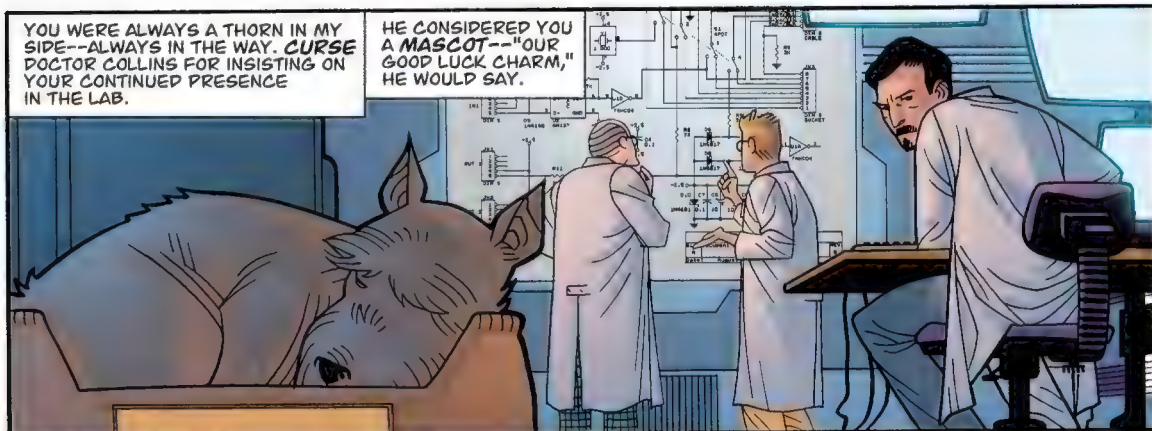


OH,
GREAT...

...WALTER.

SCIENCE
DOG! I
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN!

IT'S
ALWAYS
YOU, ISN'T
IT?!



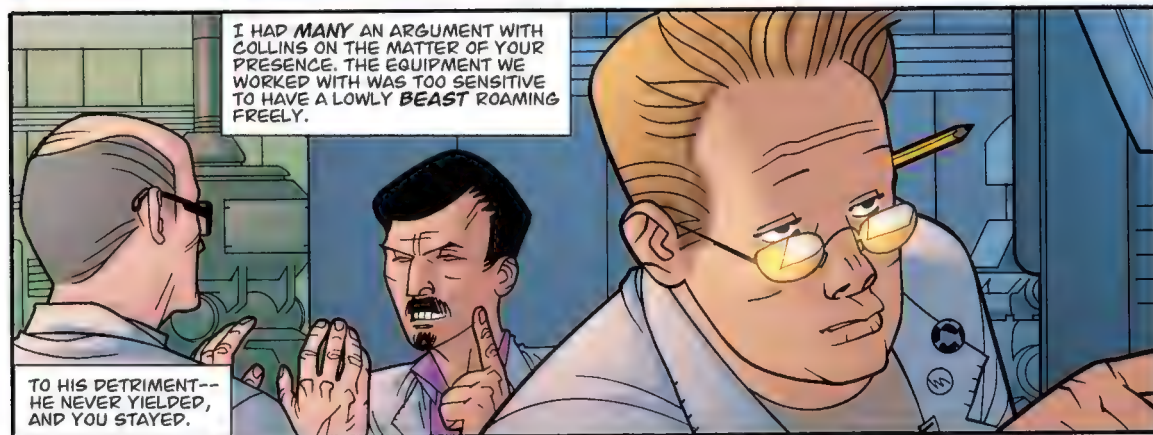
YOU WERE ALWAYS A THORN IN MY SIDE--ALWAYS IN THE WAY. **CURSE** DOCTOR COLLINS FOR INSISTING ON YOUR CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THE LAB.

HE CONSIDERED YOU A **MASCOT**--"OUR GOOD LUCK CHARM," HE WOULD SAY.



COLLINS SEEMED TO LOVE YOU A GREAT DEAL. DANIEL, MY FELLOW LAB ASSISTANT, THE **KISS-UP** THAT HE WAS, USED TO SAY YOU BROUGHT OUT THE DOCTOR'S HUMANITY.

I THOUGHT IT SHOWED HIS **WEAKNESS**.



I HAD **MANY** AN ARGUMENT WITH COLLINS ON THE MATTER OF YOUR PRESENCE. THE EQUIPMENT WE WORKED WITH WAS TOO SENSITIVE TO HAVE A LOWLY **BEAST** ROAMING FREELY.

TO HIS DETRIMENT--HE NEVER YIELDED, AND YOU STAYED.



HAD HE SURVIVED THAT DAY--I'M SURE HE WOULD HAVE REGRETTED HIS DECISION.

YES--I'M SURE HE WOULD.

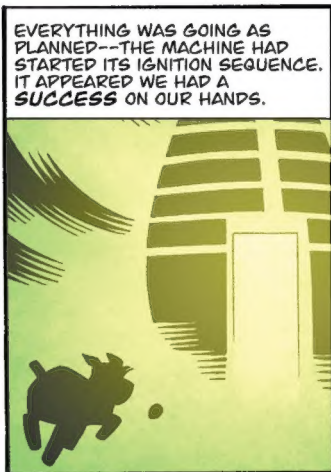


I REMEMBER THAT DAY AS THOUGH IT WERE YESTERDAY. WE WERE TESTING A NEW INVENTION-- SOMETHING THE GOVERNMENT HAD PAID **HANDSOMELY** FOR.

SOMETHING THAT WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD FOREVER--FOR BOTH OF **US**, AT LEAST.



WE HAD INVENTED A TIME MACHINE. WE WERE RUNNING OUR FIRST TRIAL, USING UTMOST CAUTION, ITS RESULTS WERE STILL NOT KNOWN TO BE SAFE.



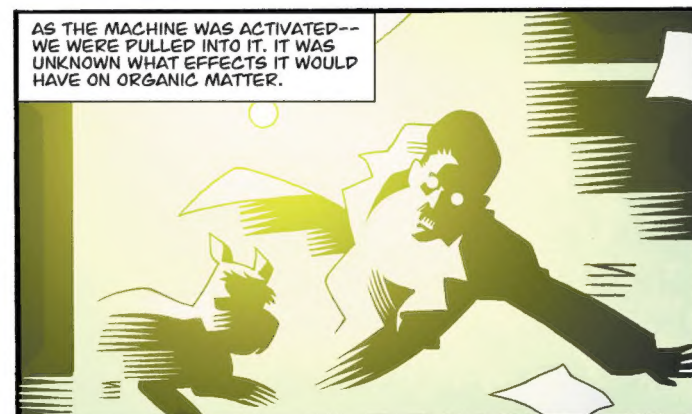
EVERYTHING WAS GOING AS PLANNED--THE MACHINE HAD STARTED ITS IGNITION SEQUENCE. IT APPEARED WE HAD A **SUCCESS** ON OUR HANDS.



UNTIL **YOU** INTERVENED.



YOU WERE SECONDS AWAY FROM RUINING **YEARS** OF WORK. I DIDN'T BLAME **YOU** OF COURSE-- COLLINS WAS YOUR ENABLER. **HE** WOULD BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE BLAME--AND THE CONSEQUENCE.



AS THE MACHINE WAS ACTIVATED-- WE WERE PULLED INTO IT. IT WAS UNKNOWN WHAT EFFECTS IT WOULD HAVE ON ORGANIC MATTER.



IT SEEMED WE WERE SUSPENDED IN TIME FOR AN **ETERNITY**.

THEN THE WORLD
WENT **BLACK**.



WHEN WE AWOKE YOU
AND I WERE DIFFERENT--
CHANGED--IMPROVED.

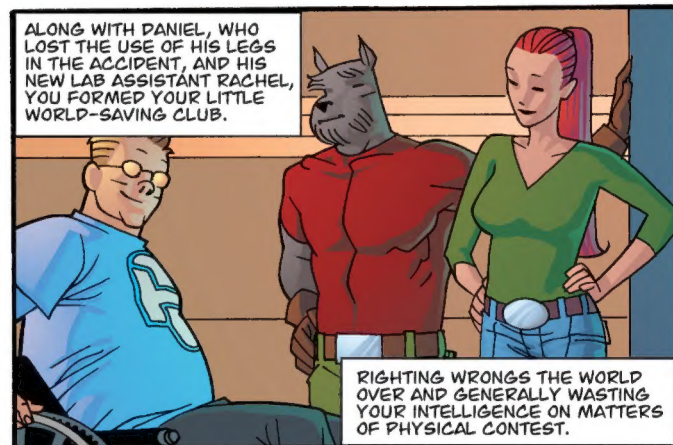


WE WERE **EVOLVED**--OUR
MOLECULES WERE BROUGHT
ONE MILLION YEARS INTO THE
FUTURE, RESULTING IN OUR
INSTANTANEOUS EVOLUTION.

YOUR INTELLIGENCE WAS
INCREASED TO MORE THAN
TEN TIMES THAT OF THE
SMARTEST HUMAN. YOUR
STRENGTH AND SPEED WERE
IMPROVED EXPONENTIALLY
AS WELL.



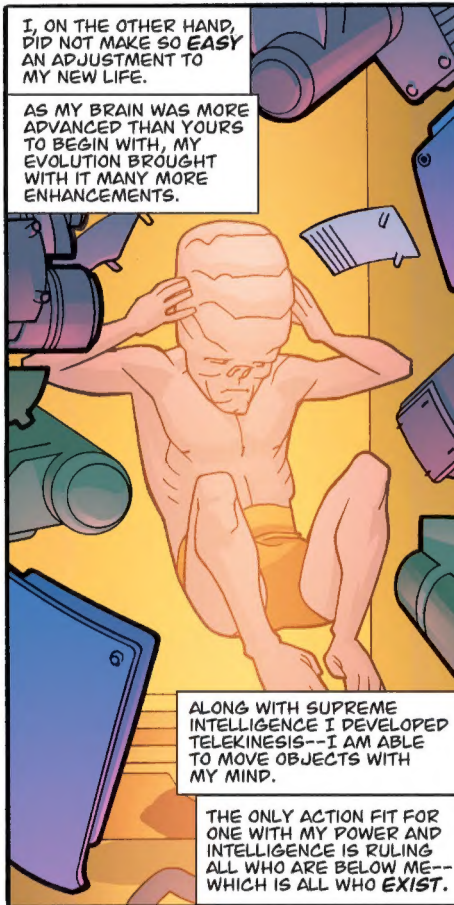
ALONG WITH DANIEL, WHO
LOST THE USE OF HIS LEGS
IN THE ACCIDENT, AND HIS
NEW LAB ASSISTANT RACHEL,
YOU FORMED YOUR LITTLE
WORLD-SAVING CLUB.



RIGHTING WRONGS THE WORLD
OVER AND GENERALLY WASTING
YOUR INTELLIGENCE ON MATTERS
OF PHYSICAL CONTEST.

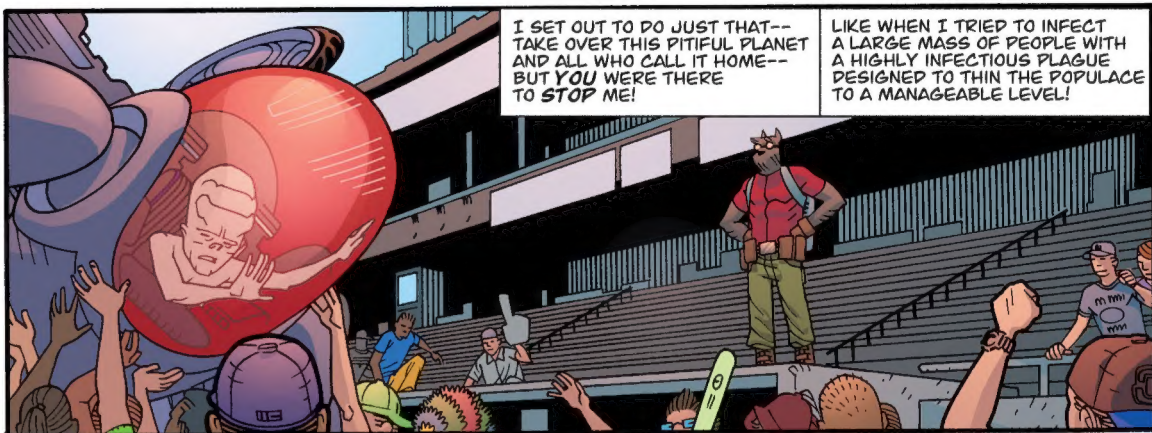
I, ON THE OTHER HAND,
DID NOT MAKE SO **EASY**
AN ADJUSTMENT TO
MY NEW LIFE.

AS MY BRAIN WAS MORE
ADVANCED THAN YOURS
TO BEGIN WITH, MY
EVOLUTION BROUGHT
WITH IT MANY MORE
ENHANCEMENTS.



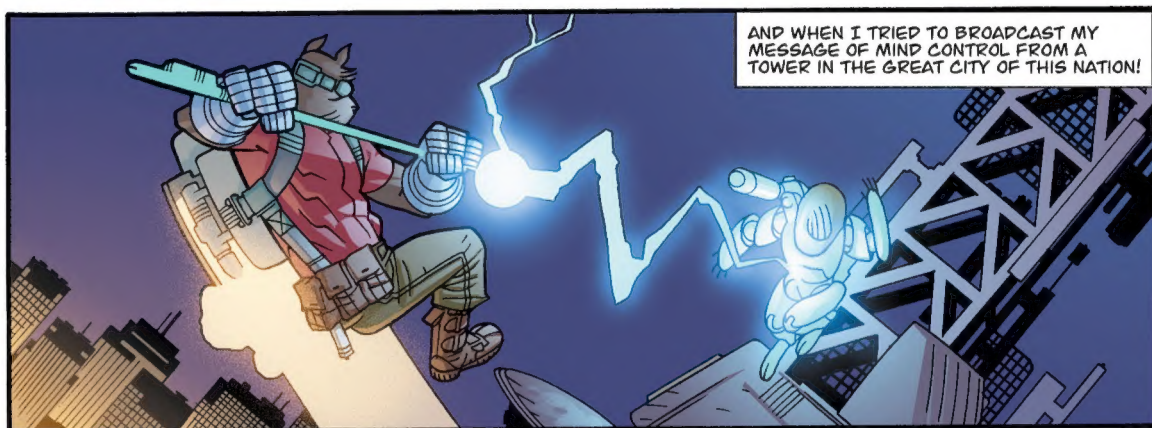
ALONG WITH SUPREME
INTELLIGENCE I DEVELOPED
TELEKINESIS--I AM ABLE
TO MOVE OBJECTS WITH
MY MIND.

THE ONLY ACTION FIT FOR
ONE WITH MY POWER AND
INTELLIGENCE IS RULING
ALL WHO ARE BELOW ME--
WHICH IS ALL WHO **EXIST**.

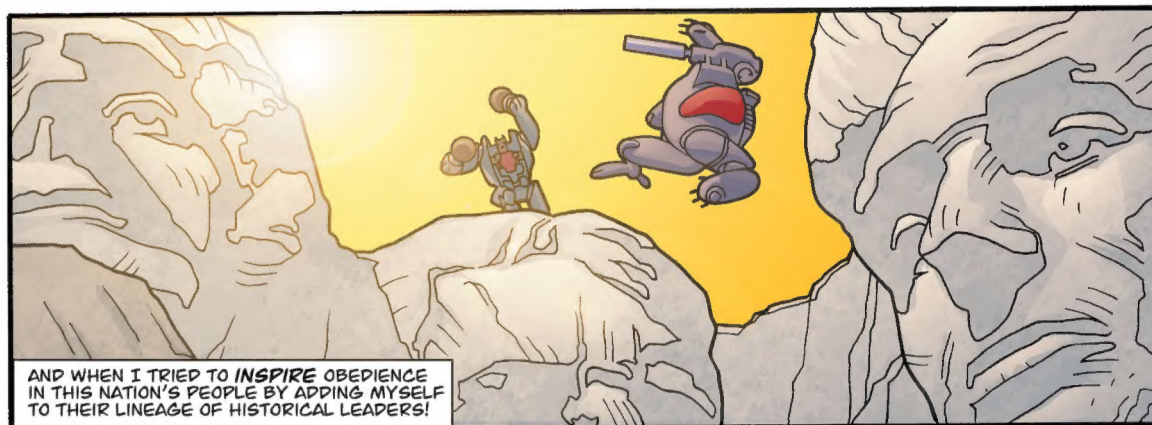


I SET OUT TO DO JUST THAT--
TAKE OVER THIS PITIFUL PLANET
AND ALL WHO CALL IT HOME--
BUT YOU WERE THERE
TO STOP ME!

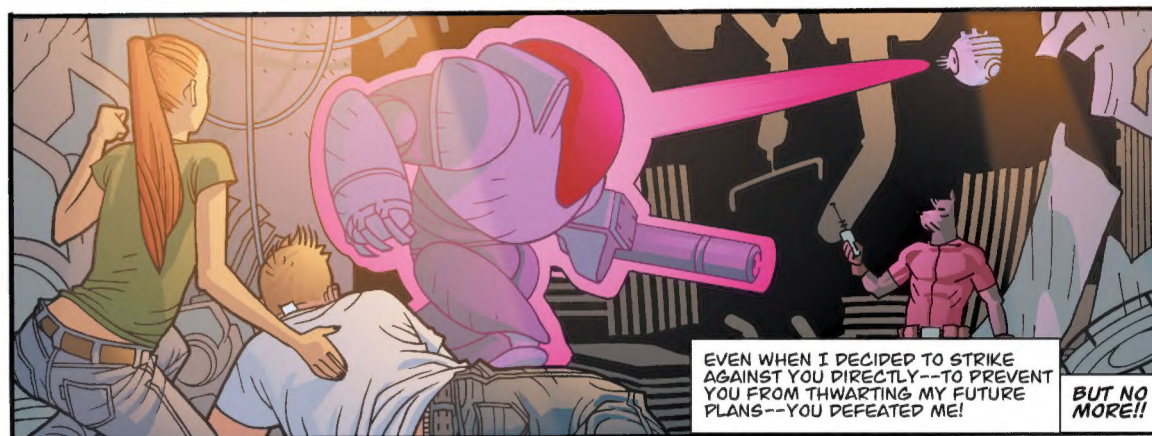
LIKE WHEN I TRIED TO INFECT
A LARGE MASS OF PEOPLE WITH
A HIGHLY INFECTIOUS PLAGUE
DESIGNED TO THIN THE POPULACE
TO A MANAGEABLE LEVEL!



AND WHEN I TRIED TO BROADCAST MY
MESSAGE OF MIND CONTROL FROM A
TOWER IN THE GREAT CITY OF THIS NATION!

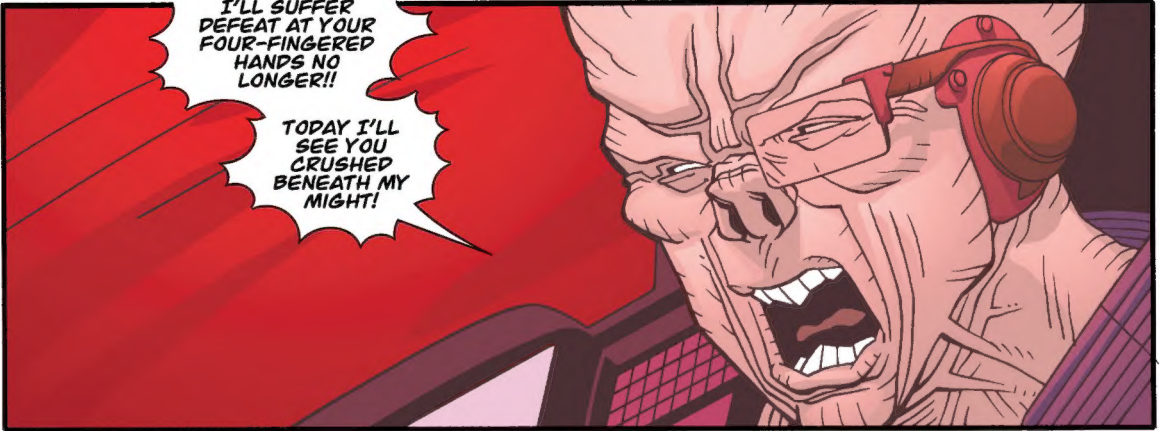


AND WHEN I TRIED TO **INSPIRE** OBEDIENCE
IN THIS NATION'S PEOPLE BY ADDING MYSELF
TO THEIR LINEAGE OF HISTORICAL LEADERS!



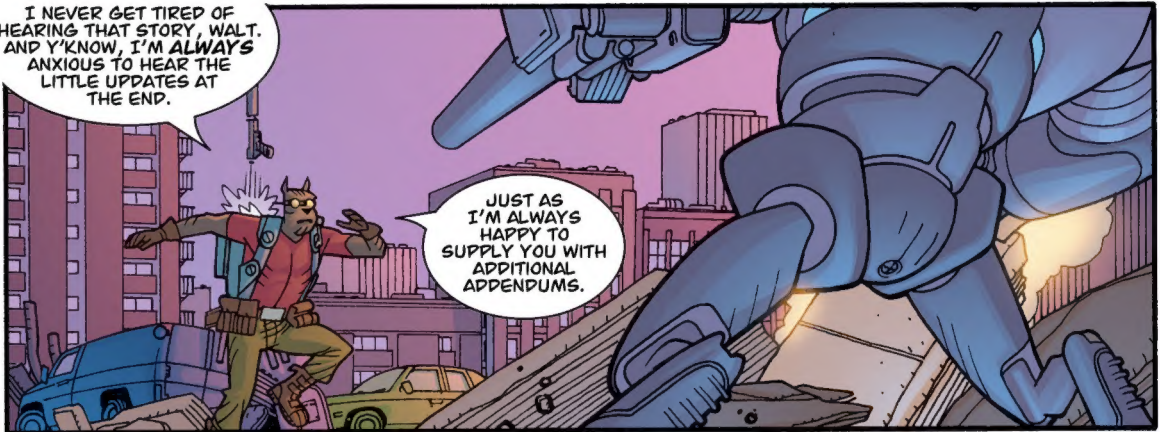
EVEN WHEN I DECIDED TO STRIKE
AGAINST YOU DIRECTLY--TO PREVENT
YOU FROM THWARTING MY FUTURE
PLANS--YOU DEFEATED ME!

**BUT NO
MORE!!**



I'LL SUFFER
DEFEAT AT YOUR
FOUR-FINGERED
HANDS NO
LONGER!!

TODAY I'LL
SEE YOU
CRUSHED
BENEATH MY
MIGHT!

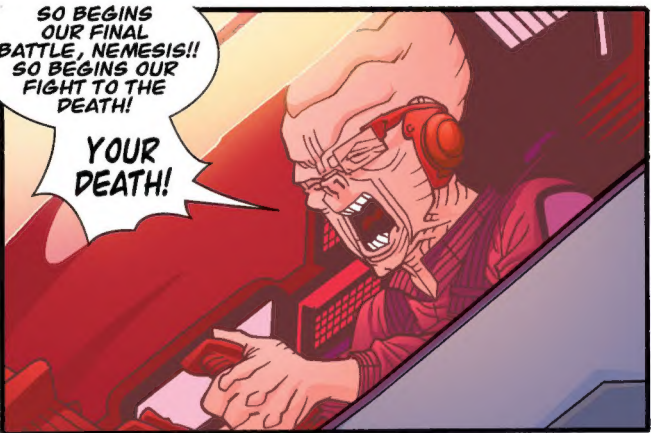


I NEVER GET TIRED OF
HEARING THAT STORY, WALT.
AND Y'KNOW, I'M ALWAYS
ANXIOUS TO HEAR THE
LITTLE UPDATES AT
THE END.

JUST AS
I'M ALWAYS
HAPPY TO
SUPPLY YOU WITH
ADDITIONAL
APPENDUMS.

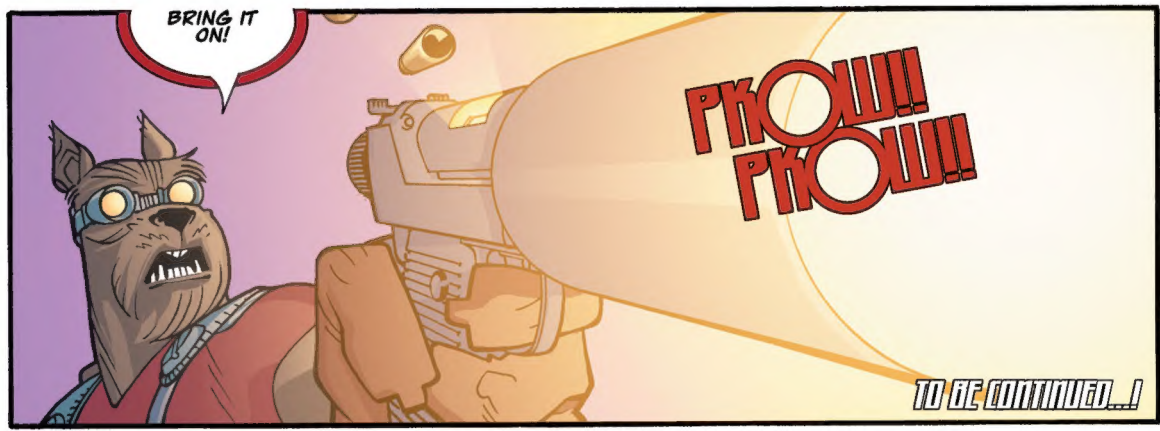


SO LET'S
GET
STARTED.



SO BEGINS
OUR FINAL
BATTLE, NEMESIS!!
SO BEGINS OUR
FIGHT TO THE
DEATH!

YOUR
DEATH!



BRING IT
ON!

PROW!!
PROW!!

TO BE CONTINUED...!